

End of a 39-month ordeal US hostage released by kidnappers

From Christopher Walker, Nicosia

AN AMERICAN hostage, Professor Robert Polhill, arrived in Damascus last night after being released by his pro-Iranian kidnappers at a Beirut hotel.

Officials said Professor Polhill, aged 55, was resting at a government house before being handed over by Mr Farouq al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, to Mr Edward Djerjian, the US Ambassador.

Professor Polhill's wife Feryl was in the city.

Professor Polhill is a former professor of business studies and accounting, and the oldest of three American academics seized on the campus of Beirut University College by kidnappers disguised as policemen. He had been in captivity for nearly 39 months.

He is the first American freed since Mr David Jacobson, the former director of Beirut's American University Hospital, who was handed over on November 2, 1986, after being held for 524 days.

The hostage's identity was disclosed to newsmen by Syrian military sources in the Lebanese capital. Professor Polhill is known to be a diabetic and there had been a number of reports about his poor health in captivity. Born in New York, he divorced his first wife, Joanne, in 1974 and was living at the university campus with his second wife, when he was seized. He has two sons, Brian and Jonathan, by his first marriage.

A photograph of Professor Polhill released by the kidnappers earlier showed him looking haggard. The fellow captives he leaves behind are Professor Alan Stein of Boston, whose 51st birthday was yesterday and who reportedly suffers from high blood pressure, and Professor Jesse Turner, a professor of computer sciences, from Boise, Idaho.

The kidnappers said before Professor Polhill was set free that he would be carrying a verbal message to President Bush, expected to contain demands to be met in exchange for the release of his two academic colleagues. Diplomats predicted that the message would cover requests to the United States to put pressure on Israel to release some 300 Arab prisoners being held in jails in southern Lebanon and in Israel.

According to witnesses in Beirut, Professor Polhill walked from a car which pulled up outside the Summerland Hotel, and crossed the road to a waiting Syrian vehicle. A witness, who asked not to be identified, said that Brigadier General Ghazi Kanaan, the chief of Syrian military intelligence, took delivery of Professor Polhill.

Later a six-vehicle convoy headed up the main road to Damascus where a formal handover to the American Ambassador was planned. Professor Polhill was due to be flown later to an American military hospital in Wiesbaden, West Germany, for medical treatment and debriefing.

The delayed release by the financial group, Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, was seen as a possible catalyst for the eventual handing over of the 16 other Westerners still being held in Lebanon, four of them Britons. But long months of negotiation are still considered necessary.

The decision to free Professor Polhill, despite the refusal of America to bow to demands to send Mr John Kelly, the State Department's senior Middle East expert, to Damascus, was seen as a triumph for Syrian diplomacy and for President Bush's handling of the delicate situation.

"The main result of this release will be to greatly improve Syria's international image and lessen its role as a designated 'terrorist state'," one senior diplomat said. "It will also help improve relations between Washington and Tehran, but there is still a lot of ground to be made up."

The release was also seen as a significant boost for the pragmatic faction in Iran led by President Rafsanjani, which has been calling for an end to hostage holding, despite opposition from radicals.

Last night Arab and Western officials involved in the hostage crisis were cautioning against any excessive optimism for other hostages.

"Syria does not have the same influence over the other groups holding Westerners," one official said.

In a statement yesterday the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine linked possible freedom for the other two academics to a halt in Israeli attacks on pro-Iranian guerrilla targets in Lebanon, which have recently been stepped up.

Shortly before the release took place, the kidnappers issued their third communiqué about the affair which began last week when they made their original pledge to release one captive. "It was decided to go ahead with the final arrangements after efforts by respected Muslim spiritual leaders, officials of the Islamic republic of Iran) and ... Syria."

"By this we will show our good intentions in moving this issue towards a balanced solution ... the other party (the United States) should also prove its good intentions to make progress."

The three American academics were kidnapped five days after Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, had gone to meet representatives of another group, Islamic Jihad, but before it was realized Mr Waite himself had been abducted.

Campaigners for John McCarthy, the British journalist abducted four years ago, said they were delighted for Professor Polhill, but "very guarded about any optimism."

WASHINGTON: Speaking prior to the reports of Professor Polhill's release, President Bush indicated that all American hostages in Lebanon would have to be released before the US was prepared to improve relations with Iran (Martin Fletcher writes).

"We want every American held against his will, her will, released, where ever they may be," he said.

Shia warning, page 11

Nigerian leader safe after coup is foiled

From Elizabeth Obadina in Lagos

PRESIDENT Babangida of Nigeria appeared safe last night after an attempted coup by junior officers was foiled following fighting around Dodan Barracks, the presidential residence in Lagos.

The state radio headquarters was held for several hours by rebels who at one stage claimed to have toppled the President, but after troops loyal to the President regained control, General Sanni Abacha, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on the radio that all service chiefs had pledged their support.

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Briton accused of smuggling supergun parts is remanded

By Chris Eliott

A DECISION by Greek legal authorities on whether to prosecute a British lorry driver arrested for allegedly smuggling parts of an Iraqi "supergun" through Greece is expected to be made today.

Mr Paul Ashwell, aged 26, was remanded in custody yesterday after testifying for three hours before an examining magistrate as customs officers investigated the interception of his lorry at the Greek port of Patras. The Foreign Office said last night that the magistrate, Mr George Elstathiou, will be making further inquiries and discussing with the public prosecutor whether charges should be brought.

A Greek lawyer has been appointed by

Miss Marie Morphy-Karatzas, the British vice-consul, to represent Mr Ashwell, a married man with a son aged two, from Northampton, who works for his father-in-law's haulage firm. Mr Ashwell, who is being detained in a police cell, is said to be "in good health and spirits".

In Britain, political pressure intensified as Labour questioned the Government's alleged failure to act upon warnings that military equipment for Iraq was being made by two companies in Britain and transported to Baghdad. The companies, Sheffield Forgemasters, of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, and Walter Somers, of Halesowen, West Midlands, have denied that they knew they were supplying weaponry. Customs officers are investigating. Mr Gordon

Brown, Labour's trade spokesman, will demand a full statement in the Commons today from Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. In a carefully worded statement last week, Mr Ridley did not deny that the Department of Trade and Industry had cleared the export to Iraq of a prototype gun in apparent contravention of an arms embargo.

Mr Brown said yesterday: "Mr Ridley's response was totally inadequate and he gave a far from complete account of dealings between his department and the companies involved."

Amid other developments, sources confirmed that, despite warnings two years ago by the Conservative MP Sir Hal Miller to two government depart-

ments and a third agency, believed to be the security service, Customs officers had not been alerted until recent weeks. The alert may only have been given by the Israeli secret service, which set out recently to prevent consignments of tubes that constitute the giant gun from reaching Iraq.

The gun was designed to enable Iraq to hit its foes with nuclear or chemical weapons from the northern city of Mosul as part of a \$4 million project code-named Babylon. The Iraqis have already succeeded in building two smaller guns.

Mr Steve Gunn, director of the British Customs and Excise investigation division, is in Patras. He said after examining the 29.5 ton tube from Mr Ashwell's lorry that it was of high-quality

reinforced steel and part of a weapon that could fire long-range missiles.

The Iraqi Embassy in Athens disputed claims that the tubes seized by the British and the Greeks were part of a gun and insisted they were "steel pipes" for the petroleum industry.

Mr Antonis Mitsis, the public prosecutor, said that possible charges might change from criminal to misdemeanour. A criminal offence of smuggling arms or ammunition carries a five to 20-year jail sentence. A misdemeanour carries a lighter term that may be bought off.

Mr Mitsis said that after the truck was intercepted, Mr Ashwell was allowed to fly to Britain to "complete" the documents accompanying the "tube". He quoted Mr Ashwell as saying that there

was a page missing from his triptych and a stamp missing from the Dover Customs. When he returned to Greece, Mr Ashwell did not have the required stamps because the Dover Customs told him that they were unable to inspect the load and he was arrested.

"I didn't think there would be a problem for non-stamped pages in my travelling papers since I was driving through Common Market countries and used my green card," Mr Ashwell told reporters through his lawyer.

During the testimony, he denied the charges, and said he was surprised to hear in Patras that he was carrying parts of a weapons system when he left Britain on March 30, 11 days before Customs impounded parts on Teesside.

Union block votes to go in Kinnock shake-up

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

MR NEIL Kinnock is preparing to set in hand this week the biggest overhaul in the Labour Party's policy-making and organizational machinery since it was founded.

Far-reaching and long-awaited proposals to cut the block votes of the trade unions will be accompanied by a radical plan to transfer policy formation out of the hands of the Labour conference to a new, elected 170-member council drawn from all sections of the party.

The proposals were described yesterday by a national executive committee source as the "last step on the road to Labour's conversion to a fully fledged modern European democratic socialist party".

They follow the party's biggest consultation exercise, and the key policy proposals build on the success of the three-year policy review undertaken since the last general election.

They are contained in a 25-page confidential document to be considered by the executive on Wednesday. In it the author, Mr Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, says that the unions and the constituency parties agree that Labour conference procedures and policy-making "present many problems and need substantial revision" and speaks of "clear majority support for... a more radical approach to policy-making".

In moves bound to be opposed by the far left, Mr Kinnock is planning to end a system under which Labour's leaders have had ill-considered policy decisions foisted on them by the conference, and where the leadership's will has often been frustrated by bargaining deals between trade unions.

A notable example was the conference's rejection of Mr Kinnock's one-member, one-vote proposals in 1984, an experience which hardened his determination to achieve reform. The suggested formula envisages the conference considering proposals drawn up by the policy council rather than initiating policy itself.

Under the Whitty proposals, trade unions will have their voting strength cut from 90 per cent to 70 per cent and additional votes going to constituency party members, who have only 10 per cent of the votes at present. As the campaign for a mass membership continues, the proportion of votes exercised by constituencies will increase (probably by 1 per cent for every 30,000 new members) and that of the unions diminish.

Constituency delegates to the annual conference, traditionally from the far left, will be chosen by one-member, one-vote proposals.

Mr Kinnock's supporters see the Whitty plan as the last "building block" in his programme of constitutional reform.

ber, one-vote elections, rather than by general management committee activists. The biggest upheaval, however, is over policy formation. Under the leadership plans a new national policy forum or council will be set up to draw up policy in a thoughtful, non-confrontational manner away from the atmosphere of the highly political national executive and the national conference.

The Whitty paper envisages seven new permanent policy commissions, covering such issues as defence, the economy, home affairs, and the environment. These would be based on the policy review. The commissions would report to the policy council.

That body, meeting four times a year, would comprise representatives from the NEC, the unions, the Parliamentary Labour Party, the regions (Mr Whitty's paper envisages as many as 88 members being elected on a one-member, one-vote basis by the regional conferences), the youth and student wings of the party, the Labour members of the European Parliament, and the women's organization.

The council, to be elected every two years, would have a two-year "rolling" policy programme designed to prevent delegates raising the same issues year after year.

The proposals would go to the annual conference for endorsement and amendment. Unwieldy composite motions tabled for discussion would be capable of being broken up to prevent the conference taking decisions it may not have intended.

The package will be voted on at this year's conference and the leadership is confident of pushing it through in spite of the opposition of some left-wing unions, such as the transport workers.

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Mr Kinnock's supporters see the Whitty plan as the last "building block" in his programme of constitutional reform.

A notable example was the conference's rejection of Mr Kinnock's one-member, one-vote proposals in 1984, an experience which hardened his determination to achieve reform. The suggested formula envisages the conference considering proposals drawn up by the policy council rather than initiating policy itself.

Under the Whitty proposals, trade unions will have their voting strength cut from 90 per cent to 70 per cent and additional votes going to constituency party members, who have only 10 per cent of the votes at present. As the campaign for a mass membership continues, the proportion of votes exercised by constituencies will increase (probably by 1 per cent for every 30,000 new members) and that of the unions diminish.



An angry Mr Ashdown can only watch his Robin Reliant car burn out after it caught fire at Shalford, Surrey

EMBRYO DEBATE

Propaganda war rages for hearts and minds of MPs

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

THE war of words between advocates and opponents of embryo research reaches its ultimate battleground at the House of Commons today with both sides predicting victory for their cause.

Entrenched views on infertility and hereditary disease are likely to surface tomorrow during the Commons debate on the upper time limit at which abortions can be performed legally.

Yesterday, it was disclosed that a leading anti-abortion group is sending plastic models of a 20-week-old foetus to all MPs. The move was described as a "ghastly stunt" by Mr Peter Thurnham, a Conservative MP committed to embryo research, but Mrs Phyllis Bowman, national director of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, said the campaign for research (alias Progress) has

been accused of misleading claims by the All Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group. The Family Planning Association vies with the Order of Christian Unity and Save The Unborn Child (alias Life).

Images of Nazi concentration camp experiments have been thrust forward as indictments of uncontrolled research. Childless couples, the parents of test-tube babies and of children born with incurable disorders have competed publicly for the hearts and minds of opinion-makers.

Last week, at a news conference, Professor Robert Winston of Hammersmith Hospital, west London, a leading proponent of embryo research, produced two women, both expecting twins, who have been assured through genetic-determination techniques, applied to *in vitro* fertilization, that their children would not be prone to incurable genetic disorders that afflict only male offspring.

"I don't believe it is unethical to do this work. I believe it is unethical not to do it," he said. "Without embryo research, it would have been impossible."

The response from Life was that Professor Winston was "exploiting the aspirations and hopes of those families at risk of genetic illnesses in an untruthful manipulation of the political debate."

Mr Keith Davies, national co-ordinator of Life, said yesterday: "We are confident that the Mother of Parliaments will ban this barbaric form of research."

Mrs Bowman said: "It doesn't follow that because people are doctors that they are truthful. There has been a very biased campaign against our views and it has been extraordinarily difficult to get a fair hearing."

Tendering 'lowers NHS standards'

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

THE experiment of competitive tendering for NHS domestic services has been a disaster resulting in some hospitals being so filthy they should carry a Government health warning, according to a report by the union-funded Joint NHS Privatization Research Unit, published today.

It says that since 1983, when existing health service staff were forced to compete for their jobs against private companies, hygiene and cleaning standards have slumped.

"Patients in many of Britain's hospitals now have to run the risk of finding used dressings under their beds; blood and bone left uncleared in operating theatres and splattered on walls; carpets and chairs mouldy with urine on geriatric wards," it claims.

adding: "They can find some strange and unpleasant objects... in their floor."

The report lists more than 100 instances where standards have plummeted, often leading to cross-infection and food poisoning. "In each case, private contractors were identified as being at fault."

Although 80 per cent of the contracts for cleaning, catering and laundry stayed with the NHS, the unit says private contractors won 400 contracts. "Of those, over 100 have been disasters, a failure rate of one in four, leading to fines being imposed and health authorities sacking the contractors." Even where the work was still being carried out by NHS staff, the report says, standards had dropped because of staff cuts.

The price of saving a Reliant

A MOTORIST was unable to save his Robin Reliant car after it burst into flames because he did not have cash to pay for a fire extinguisher.

Mr Paul Ashdown was driving to pick up his wife when the three-wheel car, which had been fitted with a new engine less than a week earlier, caught fire at Shalford, near Guildford, Surrey. He ran to a garage but was told the extinguisher would cost £17.50.

"I couldn't believe it when the man behind the counter told me right away how much it would cost," he said. "He could see my car in flames just 50 yards away. It was ridiculous. There were smoke and flames pouring out from under the bonnet. I thought there would at least be one extinguisher free for an emergency."

"I did not have the cash on me. He then told me I could pay after I put the fire out, so I grabbed the extinguisher. By the time I got back to the car it was too late. So I decided to save my money by taking the extinguisher back to the garage."

The garage proprietor, Mr Rodney Grant, said afterwards: "I gave him an extinguisher and told him it would cost £17.50, which he could pay afterwards. If he had been quicker he might have put the flames out. Eventually he returned saying it wasn't worth the money."

Among motorists who witnessed the fire was Mr Robert Smith, an amateur photographer, who took the picture.

Three women were killed and four other people were seriously injured after a car driven by a pensioner careered out of control in New Milton, Hampshire, on Saturday. The women, two pedestrians and a cyclist, died after the car driven by Mrs Nellie Mole, aged 72, went out of control in the town centre. Seven cars were involved in the crash and 10 people were injured. Mrs Mole suffered slight injuries.

Minister goes to siege jail and praises officers' work

By Peter Davenport

MR DAVID Waddington, the Home Secretary, yesterday praised the governor and staff of Strangeways Prison, Manchester, for their handling of the riot and the continuing siege there. In spite of the debate over whether force should be used to end the longest siege in British penal history, he described their efforts and achievements as "magnificent".

Mr Waddington made his comments after a two-hour inspection of the jail as the siege entered its fourth week, an event marked at dawn by the doleful tolling of the bell in the wrecked chapel by one of the seven inmates still refusing to surrender. The minister's visit was planned at short notice and was not announced until it was under way.

Although there has been continuing pressure for force to be used to end the disturbance, a spokesman for the Home Office insisted that the surprise inspection did not preclude a change of tactics. "We remain very much committed to ending the siege by negotiation," he said.

The Home Secretary arrived at the prison in a Range Rover, under police escort and accompanied by Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, as the debate continued over the handling of the siege by the governor, Mr Brendan O'Riordan.

Last week, Mr Ivor Sear, chairman of the Strangeways branch of the Prison Officers' Association, claimed that Mr O'Riordan had wanted to storm the prison, using up to 400 trained officers, on the day after the riot began, but he was over-ruled by superiors.

Such action was also favoured by the Prime Minister in the early hours of the disturbances, according to some reports yesterday. Mrs Thatcher was said to have told one senior Conservative back-bencher: "We should have gone in straight away", and to have complained at a Cabinet meeting that the protracted stand-off made the Government look "weak".

In a statement issued later through the Home Office, Mr O'Riordan said the association's claims were untrue and Mr Chris Train, the director-general of the Prison Service, was reported as saying yesterday that the governor's view about the use of force had prevailed. It had been decided that the risk of casualties among prison officers and inmates was too great.

Since then, although the number of prisoners holding out has dwindled to just seven, they have had time to erect a series of barricades and booby traps that would seri-

ously hamper any attempt to retake control by force. The capability of the prisoners to muster physical resistance was evident late on Friday night, when missiles and two fire-bombs were hurled at prison officers attempting to clear debris from the chapel. Officers again went into the chapel on Saturday night, but there was no repetition of the previous night's trouble.

Informal estimates circulating within the Home Office suggest it would cost £50 million to renovate Strangeways, or £80 million to £100 million to build a new jail on the site.

Greater Manchester Police Authority, which is already facing a £2 million bill for policing the riot and the siege, with costs estimated to be rising by a £100,000 for each day it continues, is to ask the Government to meet the costs.

As Mr Waddington inspected the prison yesterday, several inmates cavorted on the roof, one dressed in purple vestments apparently taken from the prison chapel and turned inside out to make a kimono-style outfit. Another played with a makeshift metal spear attached to rope.

It is thought that Mr Waddington did not see any of the prisoners while in the building, and inmates' shouts to journalists in the streets below their rooftop perch were drowned by police sirens.

Although Mr Waddington left without speaking to journalists, a Home Office spokesman later said: "He

was very impressed by the way the prison staff had handled the situation. He praised the governor and the staff for their handling of the riot and the continuing siege there. In spite of the debate over whether force should be used to end the longest siege in British penal history, he described their efforts and achievements as "magnificent".

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Sunday trial for directors

By David Young

THE spectre of 26 company directors appearing in court for breaking Sunday trading rules (and ultimately of a "Free the B & Q Six") has emerged from a decision by Eastbourne Borough Council to use new tactics to back trading regulations.

It has taken personal summonses against the 26 directors of the B & Q, Comet and Payless retail chains, alleging that they contravened Sunday trading laws by agreeing to company policies which ordered Sunday opening.

The council has to prosecute successfully the companies under the 1950 Shops Act, a move which some members admit in private could be impossible, before it can line up the 26 directors in the local court.

The decision is the latest move in the long-running dispute which has perplexed local authorities, and irritated both those who want shops closed on Sundays and those who want them allowed to open.

The council is to prosecute Comet and B & Q, both members of the Kingfisher Group, and Payless, which is

owned by Boots, for opening on a Sunday during August last year, and has been told that each case will take five days to hear.

Because of the complexity of the cases, Eastbourne magistrates have decided that they will be heard by a full-time stipendiary magistrate brought from London. Only if those cases are successful will it be allowed to bring forward cases against the 26 directors.

The three companies have already indicated that if the magistrates' decision goes against them they may take the cases through the full appeals process.

The matter is confused by an EC Court of Justice ruling that British laws on the matter do not breach EC regulations but that the English courts should decide whether they constitute an unlawful restriction on Community trade.

Most large retail groups interpret this as meaning that Sunday trading is not a British criminal offence and that the matter must be tested by the full legal system, ultimately to the House of Lords or even to the EC Court of Justice.

B & Q said that the Sunday

laws are so unclear that it is oppressive and unreasonable to threaten personal prosecutions. The company said: "It is clear that there is a serious and complicated issue to be decided. Inevitably the matter will not be resolved until the appeal courts and possibly the European Court itself reconsider the matter."

Mr Martin Ray, Eastbourne borough secretary, said: "The law may be held to be unsatisfactory by some people, but it is our duty to see that it is upheld. Each of the companies involved will require five days to present their defence, so we could be looking at 20 days or so of trials."

The two best-known directors facing personal prosecution are ironically no longer with the companies involved. Mr Nigel Whitaker, corporate affairs director of Kingfisher, left the B & Q board a week after the alleged offence. Mr Philip Birch, who headed Haldor and Payless, has since seen his company taken over by Boots.

Both Payless and B & Q were open for business in Eastbourne yesterday. Comet was closed.

Barclaycard may charge annual fee

Barclaycard is expected to announce tomorrow that it is to introduce an annual fee for its credit card. It could be as much as £10.

The move follows Lloyds Bank's decision to impose an annual levy on its Access cardholders in February. Barclaycard is anxious to avoid the ill-feeling that led to some 600,000 Access customers closing their accounts.

Board member
Mrs Heather Brigstocke, formerly High Mistress of St Paul's Girls' School, is to join the board of Times Newspapers Holdings Ltd as an independent national director. The vacancy was created by the death in December of the Earl of Drogheda. Mrs Brigstocke was created a baroness earlier this month.

Bond winners
Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, number 10BS 178698, winner lives in Essex; £50,000, 61F 769559 (Birmingham); £25,000, 29BW 005107 (Hampshire).

Gallipoli veterans reach Istanbul

From David Sapsed, Istanbul

FIVE British veterans of the Gallipoli campaign achieved their ambition of walking the streets of Istanbul yesterday. It had taken them 75 years to get there.

The veterans, the youngest a few months short of 91 (Mr Fred Wray, from Shepherd's Bush, west London, had lived about his age in 1914 and consequently "celebrated" his 16th birthday in the trenches of Suvla Bay) arrived in Turkey at the weekend to attend ceremonies commemorating the landings on April 15, 1915.

Mr Francis Ching, aged 92, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, who scouted for the Army Cycle Corps, said: "It has not been easy to come back but I reckon all five of us feel we owe it to the lads who died here."

None of the five had been to Turkey since the Allied evacuation in January 1916. By that time more than 140,000 Empire, French and Turkish lives had been lost and 200,000 were injured.

The veterans, with other old soldiers and relatives of Britons who died in the campaign,

will head for the beaches and cemeteries of Gallipoli today as part of a tour organized by the Royal British Legion's pilgrimage department.

Yesterday, they looked over the city that had been their unattainable objective 75 years ago. They toured

mosques and palaces along the Bosphorus as Turkish soldiers seven decades their junior peered curiously at the bars of fading medals.

"It is an interesting city and the Turks have been very welcoming. It was a terrible fight but it has been over a long time now," Mr Arthur Bull said.

Mr Bull, aged 94, from Pender, Dyfed, is being sponsored by *The Times*. He was a Corporal in the Gloucestershire Hussars in 1915 and said he was dubious about the memories today's return would revive.

Mr Arthur Scudamore, aged 93, from Sidmouth, Devon, formerly with the Middlesex Regiment, wants to visit the graves of fallen comrades at Helles and Hill Ten.</

Battle for property begins as baroness is sent to prison

By Craig Seton

LAWYERS have begun what is expected to be a complex legal battle over the ownership of property worth tens of thousands of pounds after the sentencing of Baroness Susan de Stempel at Birmingham Crown Court to seven years' imprisonment for leading a conspiracy to steal £300,000 from her aunt, the late Lady Illingworth.

The court heard on Saturday that the baroness, aged 55, will lose her most prized possession, Heath House, her 40-roomed Jacobean mansion, worth at least £300,000, as a result of her conspiracy. It is to be sold and the proceeds handed over to the estate of Lady Illingworth, who was left a pauper by her niece's plot before she died, aged 86, four years ago.

The baroness's first husband, Simon Dale, was found murdered at Heath House, on the Shropshire border, in 1987, 14 years after they were divorced. She was acquitted of his murder at Worcester Crown Court last August.

It was while West Mercia police were investigating his death, however, that they uncovered her earlier plot to steal from Lady Illingworth.

Judge describes a 'ruthless' plot

By Craig Seton

JUDGE Curtis, QC, the Recorder of Birmingham, said that the conspiracy to strip the wealth of Lady Illingworth, a defenceless old woman whose mind had gone, was ruthless, heartless and truly wicked.

Sentencing Baroness Susan de Stempel to seven years' imprisonment, he said that she had been the chief architect in the meticulously planned plot, which had been carried out with "clinical coldness" and efficiency and skillfully covered up.

She had, in order to dupe banks and professional people, forged 67 documents, including a will and instructions for Lady Illingworth to be cremated in the most basic funeral, although she had wanted to be buried alongside her late husband. One of the most serious features of the plot was that the baroness had involved two of her children in what she was doing.

The judge sentenced Baron Michael de Stempel, aged 60, a financial adviser and the second husband of the baroness, to four years' imprisonment and told him: "Stripped of your sins and flowery language, you are, without doubt, a conman."

Judge Curtis said that the role of the baroness, who holds a Russian title, was to give a respectable veneer during transactions involving banks, solicitors and accountants. He had played a crucial role in obtaining Lady Illingworth's property from a bank vault and getting a Jesuit priest to witness the forged will. The baroness, of Hampstead, London, had received £40,000.

Convent-educated Sophia Wilberforce, aged 27, one of the baroness's five children, of Stanlake Road, west London, was sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment. The judge said that she had acted as Lady Illingworth's "midwife" while she stayed at the baroness's cottage at Docklow, Hereford and Worcester, and had been happy to steal her money. The judge told her: "You were led astray by the appalling example of your mother."

Her brother, Marcus Wilberforce, aged 28, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. His task was to help to dispose of Lady Illingworth's property.

original will, made in 1975. She had no children from her marriage to Baron Illingworth of Denton, Postmaster General between 1916-21, who died in 1942, and bequeathed the bulk of her wealth to two main beneficiaries.

One of them was to be the baroness's brother, Mr William John Wilberforce, aged 60, Britain's former High Commissioner in Cyprus, who lives at the Wilberforce family seat at Markington Hall, near Harrogate, north Yorkshire. The other main beneficiary was to be Miss Lucy Kilfoyle, a relative on the Illingworth side, now in South Africa.

Lady Illingworth, the baroness and her brother were all direct descendants of William Wilberforce, the anti-slave trade campaigner, and were brought up at Markington Hall. However, the baroness was due to receive nothing from her aunt's genuine will and forged a new one in Lady Illingworth's name in which she was to be the main beneficiary.

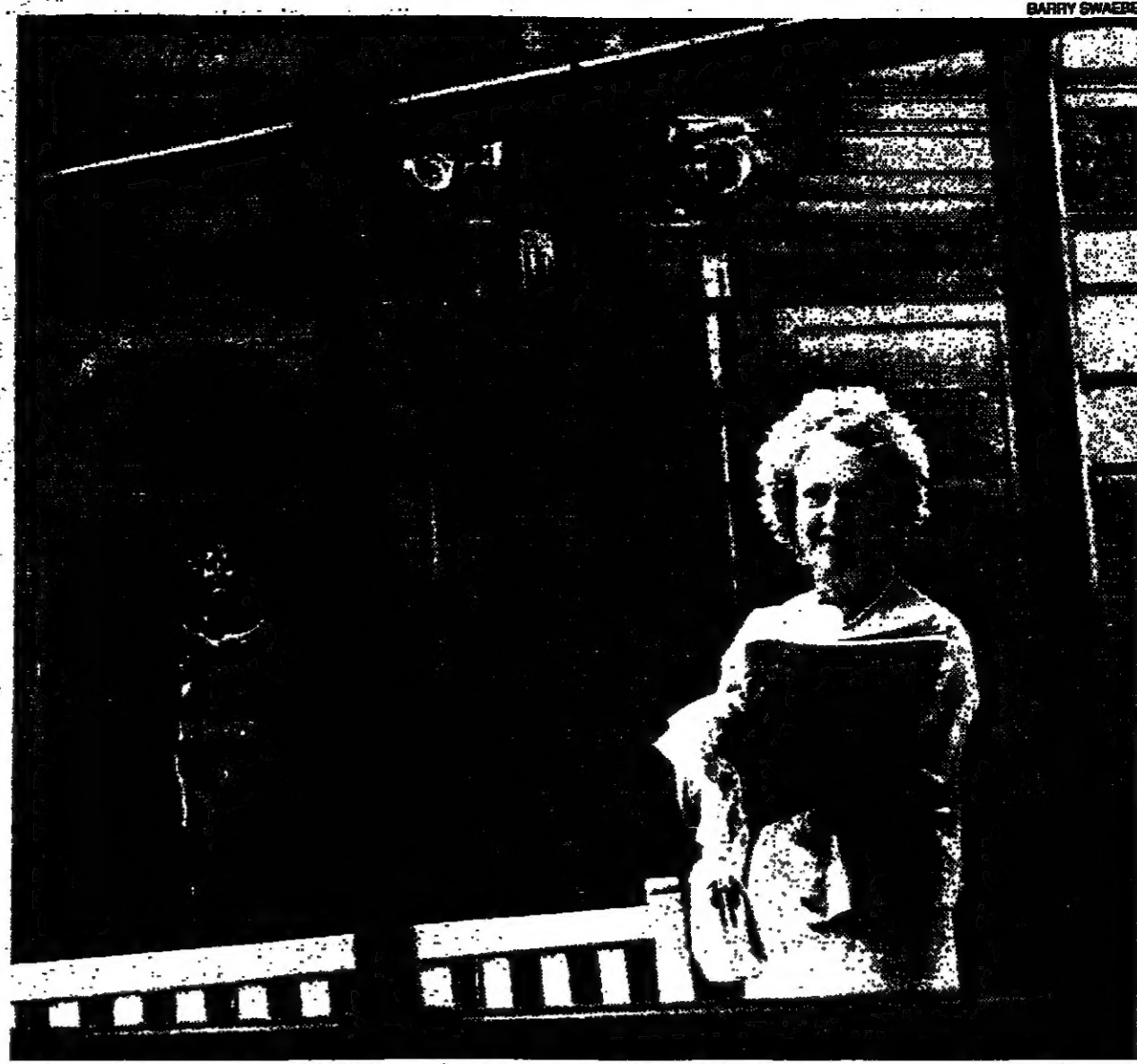
Detectors who investigated the elaborate theft conspiracy accounted for more than £500,000 stolen from Lady Illingworth between 1984 and 1986, including furniture estimated at £200,000 that was recovered. They believe there might be other property unaccounted for.

However, other property, including jewellery, furniture, paintings, objects d'art and silver was sold off and bought in good faith by dealers. The baroness purchased, among other things, a £35,000 flat in La Manga del Mar, Spain, and cars valued at £30,000 for herself and her children.

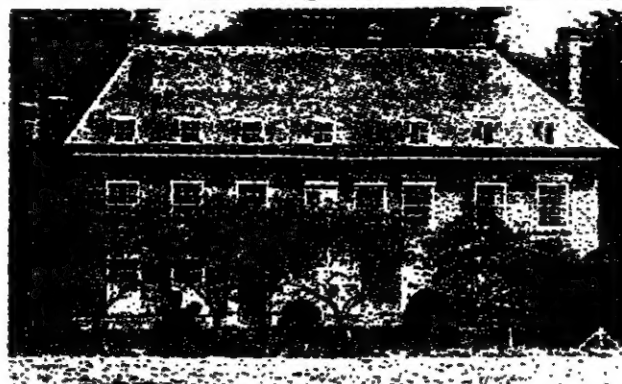
Mr Timothy Barnes, QC, for the prosecution, told the court on Saturday that the baroness had signed disclaimers on an estimated £30,000 in bank accounts and on property valued at between £70,000 and £80,000, but he said the baroness was seeking to claim an interest in a large amount of property which the Illingworth estate executors did not accept. That would have to be resolved in another court.

Mr Stephen Coward, QC, for the baroness, said it was clear there was a "substantial shortfall" in the Lady Illingworth estate and, in some respects, the position was complex and unresolved.

He said, however: "My client is taking what steps she can take to put right what has been done. When she comes out of prison she knows she will have, effectively, nothing. The position is bleak and the prospects when she comes out are grim, certainly for a woman of her age." Mr Cow-



Lady Illingworth photographed at her home in Grosvenor Square, London, in 1959. The homes of Baroness de Stempel: Heath House (below left) at Chugunford, where Simon Dale, the baroness's first husband, lived; and the rented cottage at Docklow, to which Lady Illingworth was lured and stripped of her wealth.



ard said he was confident there would be a resolution of the dispute over the ownership of property.

He revealed that the baroness's home, Heath House, near Chugunford, on the border between Shropshire and Hereford and Worcester, would be sold and, after minor claims, "the proceeds will be going to the Illingworth estate". He said: "Heath House has been a major problem in the life of my client. She loved and loves Heath House."

The baroness bought the then dilapidated Heath House in 1959 for £2,000 from part of her inheritance from her father's estate. It became the marital home after she married Simon Dale, an architect who was 15 years her senior, and she brought up their five children there.

After their divorce in 1973, however, Dale, who was almost blind and had earned virtually nothing, remained

alone in Heath House in spite of a 14-year legal battle by the baroness to get him to move out. It resembled the classic litigation between Jarndyce and Jarndyce in Dickens's *Bleak House*.

Heath House became the baroness's Bleak House. She was forced to rent a three-bedroom cottage 27 miles away at Docklow while her former husband remained in

the mansion that she loved so much. It was to the baroness's rented cottage at Docklow that Lady Illingworth was lured from her London home in 1984, and over the next two years was stripped of her wealth before she died, penniless, in a Hereford old people's home in 1986.

The following year, Dale, the baroness's first husband, was found battered to death at

Heath House. The baroness and her two children, Marcus and Sophia, were charged with his murder. The charges against the two children were dropped at an early stage.

The baroness's counsel told the Birmingham Crown Court that it begged belief that Heath House had remained unsold more than 10 years after she and her first husband had separated.

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Heritage fears outweigh rescue of Brodsworth

By John Young

TOMORROW, Brodsworth Hall, a Victorian country mansion near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, will be formally handed over to English Heritage. Underlying the celebrations and the mutual congratulations about yet another treasure being "saved for the nation" will be renewed unease about how many more times the Government and its agencies will have to mount such rescue operations.

The financial difficulties facing the owners of country houses are, of course, nothing new; they date from at least the 1920s and were stridently by Noel Coward. Tax concessions, tourism and the discreet, or sometimes indiscreet, selling of a work of art here and there have helped many to survive, but the anxieties remain.

Only last week Lord Romney, upset by the refusal of planning permission for a superstore and garden centre on his estate at Broadlands, Hampshire, declared publicly that he needed about £14 million for essential repairs and running costs. He had, he said, spent much of his inheritance on keeping the former home of Lord Mountbatten

and its grounds open to the public and he might be forced to close it. Although people judged him to be wealthy because of his assets, in fact he had a large overdraft.

Rescuing such houses for the nation is a highly expensive business which Chancellors of the Exchequer naturally shy away from. In the mid-1980s, the National Heritage Memorial Fund gave more than £40 million for the purchase of five great houses: Holton House, Lincolnshire; Kildeston Hall and Calfes Abbey, both in Derbyshire; Westcott Park, Shropshire; and Nostell Priory in West Yorkshire.

The virtually unanimous view of those concerned about Britain's great houses is that every possible effort should be made to keep them in family ownership. Although the National Trust and English Heritage are there as a safety net if owners find it impossible to carry on, the proprietors simply do not have the resources if they do not receive help from the memorial fund or cannot find cash through public appeals. The trust also considers it has enough houses and it would like to concentrate on its original pur-

pose of acquiring and protecting beautiful stretches of countryside and coast.

The Historic Houses Association, which represents about 1,300 private owners, has successfully campaigned for a number of changes in taxation. For example, owners can now establish a maintenance fund to exempt their heirs from the inheritance tax, or "death duties", which brought many former inheritors to their knees.

Mr Terry Empson, the association's director-general, says there are two other worrying factors, however. "One is the decline in agricultural incomes. Traditionally many houses have been carried on the back of earnings from their estates. The other is that repair costs are increasing much faster than the general rate of inflation, between 15 and 20 per cent a year. Historic buildings need special materials and special craftsmen's skills."

Although maintenance funds avoid capital taxation, Mr Empson says they do not attract income tax relief and they can be used only for the upkeep of the fabric of buildings and the improvement of public access.

'Veteran' Dane has chess lead

By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent

THE weekend's play in the Watson Farley & Williams Grandmaster Tournament in the City of London has left the Danish Grandmaster Bent Larsen, aged 55, clinging to a slender lead ahead of young players from Britain and the United States.

After four rounds, Larsen has 3 1/2 points and leads Michael Adams, aged 18, British champion, and Patrick Wolff, US, both on 3. Larsen, who competed in world championship semi-finals in the 1960s and 1970s, is by far the veteran of the tournament.

The Watson Farley & Williams tournament continues until May 3.

RESULTS - third round (all players England unless stated): Mark Hebden drew with Adams; Paul Motwani (Scotland) drew with William Watson; Larsen (Denmark) beat Jon Tisdal (Norway); Jon Levitt lost to Wolff (US); Glenn Flear drew with Daniel King; Tony Kosten drew with Julian Hodgson; Victor Frias (Chile) drew with Murray Chandler.

Fourth round: Chandler drew with Watson; King adjourned against Motwani; Tisdal drew with Flear; Adams drew with Larsen; Wolff beat Hebden; Hodgson beat Levitt; Frias adjourned against Kosten.

Glacier puts Merlin myth on ice

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

ONE of the most romantic and astonishing feats in British prehistory may be pure fiction, according to new scientific evidence. The bluestones of Stonehenge, allegedly brought from Ireland by Merlin, but believed by archaeologists to have been transported from Wales by Neolithic man some 4,500 years ago, are now claimed to have arrived in an ice-age glacier, perhaps 400,000 years earlier.

Scientists from the Open University have been allowed to take samples from the stones under English Heritage supervision, and say that the sources, of the

bluestone-grey rocks are too diverse for them to have been quarried in one place. The original outcrops in Wales are as much as 20 miles apart, according to Dr Richard Thorpe and Dr Owen Williams-Thorpe, who, together with Dr Graham Jenkins and Dr John Watson, will publish their findings in the journal *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*.

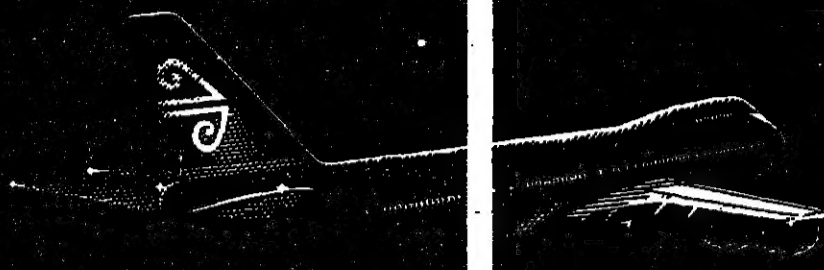
The sweeping action of the glacier, expanding southwards across Wales and the Midlands during the Pleistocene age that ended 10,000 years ago, would provide precisely the sort of mechanism

needed to assemble this geological cocktail, they say. It has long been known that four kinds of rock are represented among the "bluestones", including dolerite, rhyolite and volcanic ash.

The theory is not a new one, but the present findings of diverse origins are the first new evidence to be advanced in nearly two decades.

Stonehenge was built over a millennium, the last construction being the famous circles of tall uprights and lintels, which date to 2000 BC. The first stage, the earthwork, was dug around 2800 BC.

THE RITZ OF THE SKIES



OUR
BILLION
STAR
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Race body concern over transfers from mixed schools

By David Tytler, Education Editor

MORE white parents may decide to take their children away from schools with a high proportion of Asian or black children after a government decision to uphold a parent's right to choose a school, the Commission for Racial Equality said yesterday.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, had refused to overturn a decision by Cleveland County Council to agree to the transfer of a girl aged five because her mother objected to the high number of Asian children at her daughter's school.

The department said last night: "It is nonsense to suggest this decision has any racist overtones. Since 1980 all parents have had the right to choose the school for their children and they are not required to give reasons for doing so. If there is room in the school of their choice the

request would normally be agreed to."

Miss Jean Coussins, the social policy director of the commission, however, said the commission was considering legal action against Mr MacGregor as his decision appeared to be against the 1976 Race Relations Act which outlawed any school taking action which could be considered racist.

Miss Coussins, who said that Mr MacGregor's decision could "open the flood gates to every parent who objects to black children", added: "We could see that this was not going to be an isolated case and we are currently having one a week referred to us."

Miss Jenny Carney, aged 32, of Middlesbrough, had asked Cleveland County Council to move her child because she said her daughter was "learning Pakistani" in the school, where 40 per cent of the pupils

were Asian. She wrote to the education department asking for her daughter, Katrice, to be transferred to a school where 98 per cent of the pupils were white, saying: "I just want her to go to a school where there will be a majority of white children, not Pakistani."

The Labour-controlled council reluctantly agreed after being advised that under the 1980 Education Act parents had the right to decide where their children were educated provided there was room in the school and that the switch did not damage the efficient use of resources.

The 1988 Education Reform Act reinforced that right by making it impossible for schools to set artificial limits on pupil numbers. Schools are now obliged to admit up to the numbers of 1979, the highest ever. In November last year, the Commission for Racial Equality asked Mr MacGregor to use his powers under the 1944 Education Act to direct Cleveland to reverse the decision on the ground that it was racist and would encourage other parents to take the same action for the same reason. In his reply last month, Mr MacGregor made it clear that parental wishes must always outweigh all other considerations.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, is to ask Mr MacGregor for a statement in the House of Commons today. Speaking on the BBC's *On the Record* yesterday, he said he hoped Mr MacGregor would stick by the all-party agreement on anti-racism in schools and "not play the race card".

Last night, Miss Carney said: "I could not really care less what the Government say. I am not a racist. Katrice's father is a half-caste. All my friends are black or half-caste, everyone agrees with what I did."

At the time of her request Miss Carney was planning to move house so that it was likely that Katrice would anyway have left Abingdon Road Infants, two miles away. She said: "I am happy with her progress. At this school they learn what kids at other schools do. She was learning Pakistani at five. In the classroom they were teaching her about songs and food. I wanted her to learn English."

Mr Richard Holt, the Conservative MP for nearby Langbaurgh, said the commission should be abolished. The survey of 3,600 pupils, aged 11 to 16, in 12 schools also showed that more than half the children thought radioactive milk was safe if boiled, and did not know that oxygen came from plants. Two in five thought that table salt was made of calcium carbonate. On the 20-question paper, nobody scored more than 11.

Education, page 43



Miss Carney and Katrice yesterday: "I'm no racist"

Pupils to begin pilot tests

By Our Education Editor

ABOUT 12,000 pupils, aged seven, will this week begin taking the tests in maths, English and science that will become compulsory for 400,000 seven-year-olds next year. The tests, which are costing £6.3 million to develop, will be spread over two to three weeks and will eventually be taken by pupils every May at the ages of seven, 11 and 14.

The number of legally required tests at seven has already been cut by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to reduce the burden on teachers.

Originally, all children were to face compulsory testing in 10 subjects in the National Curriculum. It is likely now, however, that children of 11 will also only be required to face formal standard assessment tasks (SATs) in the three core subjects of maths, English and science.

Testing of all pupils aged seven will begin in 1991, but results will only be publicly reported after the 1992 assessment. Pilot tests for pupils aged 14 — costing £15 million — will begin in the summer of 1991, to be followed by unreported assessments for maths and science in 1992, and English (Welsh in Welsh-speaking schools) and technology in 1993.

The full-scale training of teachers to carry out testing will begin later this year. Teachers from groups of local schools will meet for three days during 1990-91 to decide the best way of assessing pupils. The first day in the autumn term will be spent discussing pupils' work and setting common standards.

In the middle of March, a day's training will be given on how tests should be conducted, with a third day's training at the end of the month on how to assess children's classroom work and keep adequate and clear records. This third day will probably not be necessary in future years.

Tests that could be used for seven-year-olds include: a picture of a car being washed will be shown to children who will be given three different paper towels. They will be asked to decide which one is the best for mopping up any spilled water after testing with equipment provided by the teacher. Children will also be given a



Miss Carney and Katrice yesterday: "I'm no racist"

SCIENCE REPORT

Fears for Europe's ozone

NEW measurements made in the Swiss Alps provide the first evidence that thinning of the ozone layer is increasing levels of harmful ultraviolet-B radiation in Europe.

The measurements, reported in the April 13 *Science* (vol 248, pp 206-208), show that the ultraviolet-B (UV-B) radiation falling on the Swiss Alps has risen about 1 per cent annually for the past decade. Because of its wavelength, UV-B radiation causes sunburn and increases the risk of skin cancer and cataracts. This upward trend conflicts with previous American studies, and there is no consensus about whether levels of UV-B are rising elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere.

Mario Blumthaler and Walter Ambach, of the University of Innsbruck, who made the measurements, blame the increase in Alpine UV-B on ozone depletion.

Ozone loss is most evident in the Antarctic, but as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) continue to erode the ozone layer, more and more UV-B radi-

ation — most of which is absorbed by the existing layer — is expected to stream through to the Earth's surface, even in Northern latitudes.

Blumthaler and Ambach say the rising levels of alpine UV-B they detected are in "qualitative agreement" with earlier studies reporting a 3 per cent thinning of stratospheric ozone over the US and Europe between 1969 and 1986.

In spite of their conviction, however, proof that UV-B levels are increasing elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere, and in particular over urban areas, is lacking.

Joe Scotto, an ozone expert of the US National Institutes of Health, says increases in UV-B levels of the magnitude indicated in the new study would certainly pose a health hazard; but he doubts the Swiss measurements. In 1988, he and a team of researchers made the surprising discovery that UV-B levels in the United States had actually dropped between 1974 and 1985.

Some researchers attributed

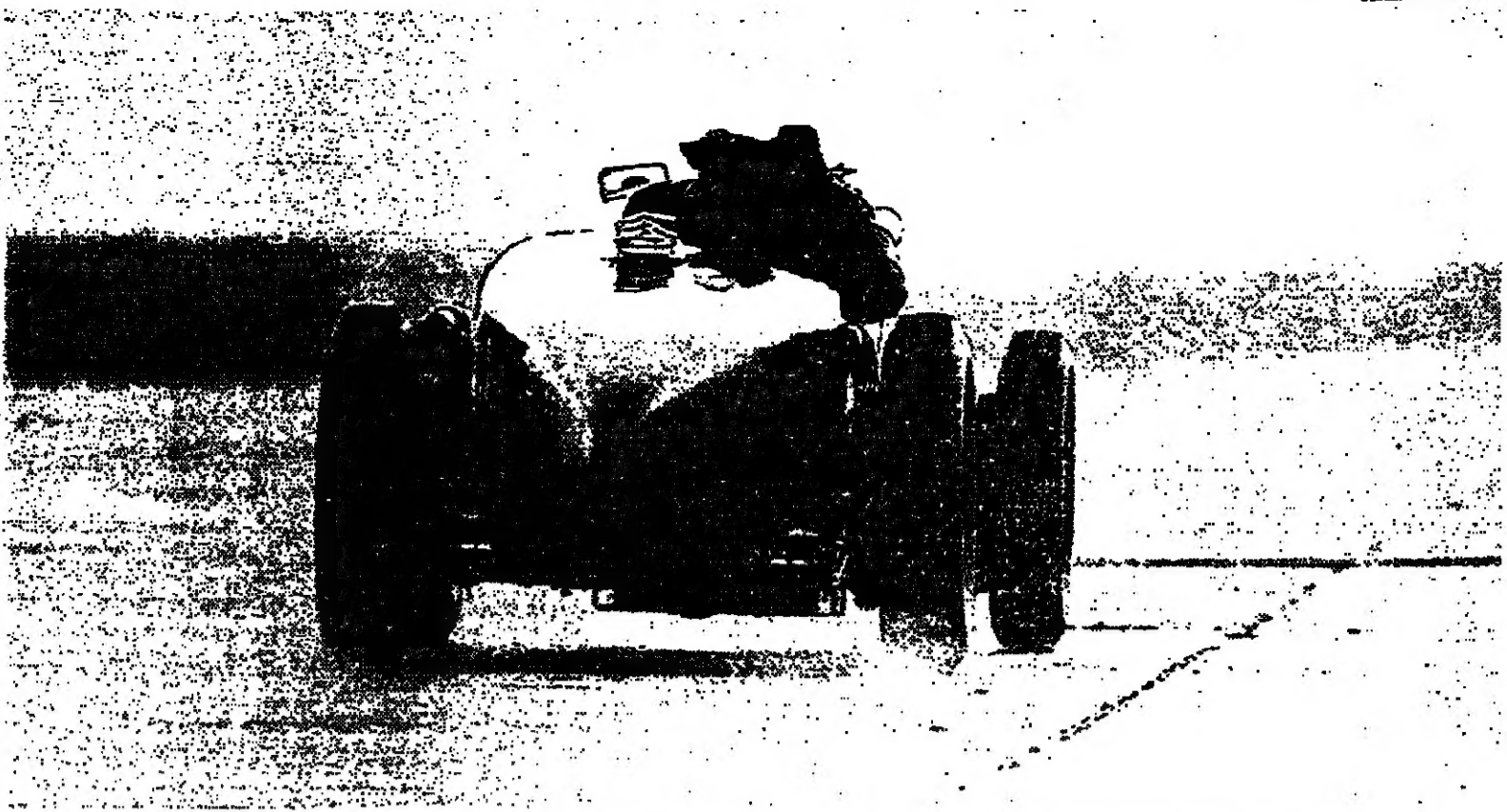
this drop to increasing levels of man-made ozone and other UV-B-absorbing gases that are produced as pollutants in heavily urban areas. Extra UV-B radiation falling through the depleted natural ozone layer had been soaked up fortuitously by the pollutants, they said. Although no such pollutants exist to prevent UV-B levels from rising in the Swiss Alps, the conflict between the US and European researchers looks set to continue as Scotto and his colleagues finish analysing UV-B measurements made at the World Radiation Centre, Davos, Switzerland, not far from where Blumthaler and Ambach took their readings.

Although their findings are not yet published, Scotto says that they find no evidence for an increase in UV-B radiation in that part of Switzerland between 1975 and 1987.

Other researchers question the reliability of the meters used to detect UV-B radiation.

David Concar

© Nature/The Times News Service, 1990



The Sunbeam Tiger on a test run at Elvington airfield, near York, and (left) 64 years ago, Henry Segrave at the wheel of his car

Sunbeam Tiger rebuilt to challenge its 1926 record

AN ATTEMPT to break the land speed record of a £1 million vintage car is to be made in a re-run of its 1926 achievement at an old US Air Force base in Elvington, near York, on May 8. The 1925 Sunbeam Tiger reached a world record speed of 152.33 mph on Southport sands when it was driven by Henry Segrave.

He was killed while attempting the water speed record on Windermere four years later. His record stood only briefly before being overtaken by Parry Thomas.

Since its heyday, however, the

supercharged 4-litre V12 Tiger fell into disrepair until it was carefully restored by the Midlands Motor Museum, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. The museum's director, Mr Bob Roberts, bought the vintage car back in the 1980s and employed two engineers, Mr John Merryfield and Mr John Baker-Courtney, to totally strip and re-build it.

The Wolverhampton-built Sunbeam Tiger — brain-child of the firm's chief engineer, Louis Costoulon — has been regularly raced at vintage sports car events since its restoration.



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Of course, having gained a BTEC National Diploma you may decide that a university or polytechnic degree is not the sort of course you want to study. In which case there are a number of options open to you.

The BTEC Higher National qualification, for example, will provide an alternative work related education in a variety of fields.

Alternatively, you may decide to face the challenges of work in industry, commerce or the professions. If you do, it's comforting to know 95% of BTEC students are in employment well within three months of qualifying.

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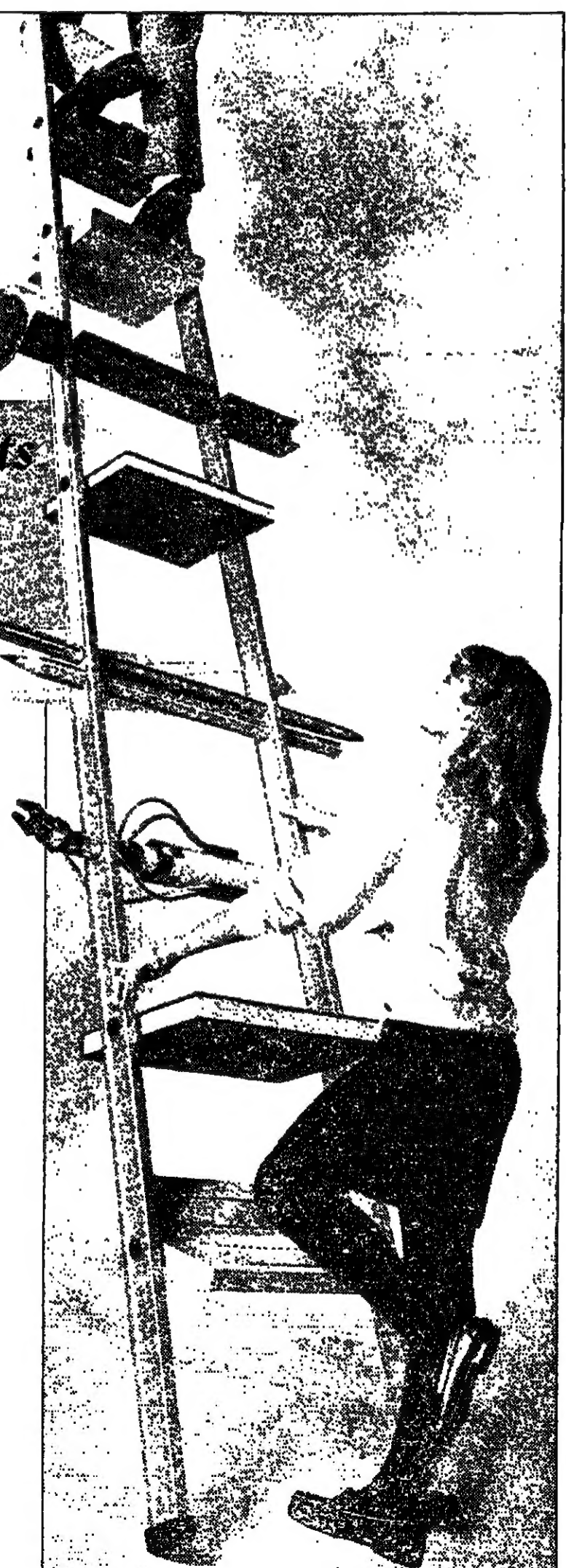
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House sales boost likely in areas with low poll tax

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

THE widely differing levels of the community charge, are certain to have an effect on house prices and could lead to mini-booms in some areas, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says.

While the political battle rages on about the charge, or poll tax, the property world is examining its effects on both types of housing and different areas of the country. Property in the lower charged authorities will become more attractive — particularly for families with a large number of members over 18 — and there could be an important effect on holiday homes, which at the discretion of the local authority can be charged up to twice the standard charge.

Mr Peter Miller, the institution's housing market spokes-

man, said that the community charge was bound to influence the price of property and the market as a whole. He predicted that the market would become stronger where the charge was lower, leaving areas with a high charge in difficulty.

Mr Miller believed that the situation would be similar to that experienced with variations of rates between local authorities. "Houses in areas of high rates became more difficult to sell, particularly during a 'buyers' market', against properties with lower rate commitments."

Houses on the fringe of high rates areas suffered disproportionately against those only a short distance away where the annual commitment was markedly lower," he said. With an

awareness of the levels of the community charge, that could affect prices in neighbouring authorities with different levels, such as Wandsworth and Lambeth in London, reflecting the gulf between the low rated Wandsworth and high rated Lambeth in the previous system.

The agents Debenham Tewson Residential believe the community charge will bring opportunities to the "canary" central London flat or house buyer. In Belgravia, for example, typical rates of £1,500 a year for a house equated to a monthly outlay of £125, reduced by more than £100 under the community charge.

"The savings through community charge could enable an individual to release extra disposable income. With an extra £1,200 a year of disposable income it could enable a buyer to improve their property standing by taking out a bigger mortgage of, say, at least £10,000," Mr Jonathan Woodfield, of Debenham Tewson, said.

The property market in Wales could emerge from its slump and benefit from comparison with the charge across the border in England. In Bristol the charge, not yet finally fixed because of the capping procedure, was set at £490, compared with £270 in Chepstow across the Severn Bridge, and the picture is similar along the Welsh borders.

Mr Trevor Kent, of the National Association of Estate Agents, believes that the market for larger houses will become more attractive in the cheaper areas.

Labour alternative attacked by SNP

LABOUR'S proposed alternative to the poll tax in Scotland was so "daft and unfair" that it would not consider implementing it in England, the Scottish National Party said yesterday. It accused Labour of treating Scots as "guinea pigs", just as, it said, the Conservatives had treated Scotland as a test-bed for the community charge.

Mr Gordon Wilson, the nationalists' leader, said in Dundee: "The Scottish people are to be the 'poor bloody infantry' in Labour's plans for a roof tax, made to bear the

brunt just as the Tories made us do with the poll tax." In Scotland, Labour would replace the poll tax with a revamped form of the rates, based on the market value of houses and generous rebates.

Its plans for England have yet to be disclosed, but party chiefs have said that the scheme would include consideration of ability to pay. Mr Wilson said Labour in England was "running a mile" from the Scottish scheme. "There is one rule for the English, another for the Scots," he added.

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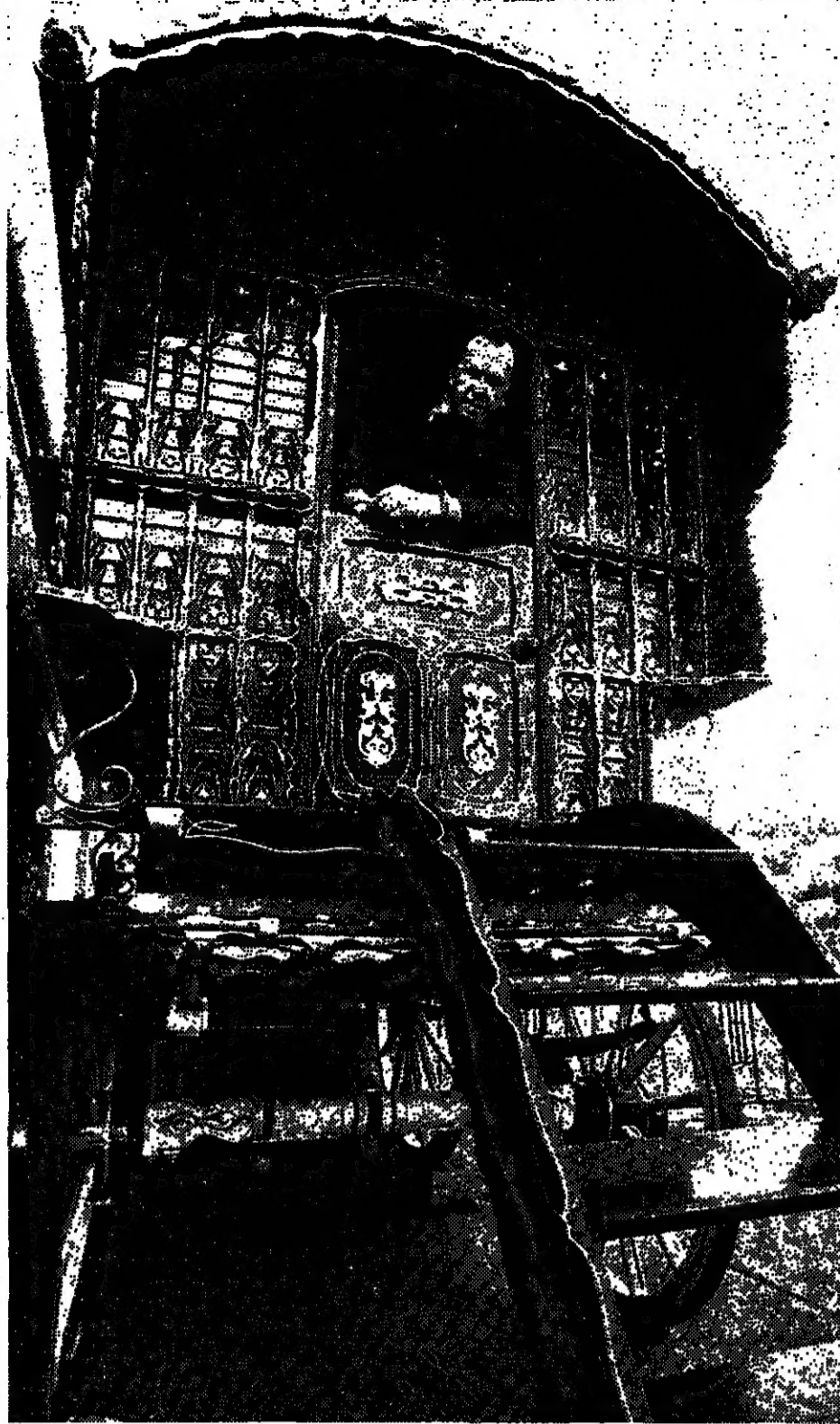
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Mr David Ford with the lavish Romany caravan which dates from about 1890

Romany caravan for sale at £20,000

By John Young

THE phrase "upwardly mobile" takes on a new dimension with the offer for sale of a lavishly decorated Romany caravan at £20,000.

The one-bedroom home on wheels, complete with luxurious fittings in mahogany and cut glass, stands outside an antique shop next to the ruins of Tintern Abbey, in the lower Wye Valley, between Chepstow and Monmouth. It dates from about 1890 and is thought to be one of only five surviving examples in Britain.

"A great number of people have shown an interest in it, and at the price it is a good investment," Mr David Ford, of Abbey Antiques, said yesterday. Anyone contemplating a life on the open road, however, should remember that he or she will need a horse.

The word "caravan" originates from ancient Persia, where it denoted a group of merchants travelling together for safety. Much more recently, it was adapted to describe the bands of travellers, or gypsies, wandering the roads of Europe.

From there, it became the accepted name for a single vehicle, but the elegant horse-drawn version has long since been replaced by the ubiquitous and unlovely motor-drawn "mobile homes" seen parked in lay-bys. Horse-drawn caravans are still relatively common in some other parts of Europe, notably the Irish Republic, where they are a tourist attraction.

A Manchester woman, aged 60, spoke of a decline into debt of £15,000 brought on by the sudden death of her husband. She said that she had no hope of paying all her creditors, but sent them all she could afford from her pension.

"All my money went on paying for my debts and I had none left to live on. I thought I did not need any help, yet it was getting worse and worse. I thought the only solution was to die... There are times even now when I go to Stuart Giles and cry and say I do not think I can carry on," she said.

Mrs Lesley Edwards, aged 42, described her own debt nightmare. She said she had begun getting into debt when she left work to look after her

Manchester's pioneering debtor group to go national

By Ruth Gledhill

A PIONEERING self-help group set up to resolve debt problems, while simultaneously helping creditors obtain their pound of flesh in a bloodless fashion, is opening its doors to the finance and social work profession.

Its aim is to expand its field of operations and help find solutions for thousands more borrowers weighed down by liabilities they cannot meet. More than 2,000 people contacted Support in Debt last year. The Manchester-based support group, which began five years ago with a group of three debtors, is now seeking to establish itself nationwide.

A seminar next month, which has attracted support from all sectors of the credit and financial services industry, aims to introduce creditors to the kind of people who fall into debt.

Mr Stuart Giles, director of the group and a debt counsellor for the city of Manchester, cited the case of a woman who was advised to "cut up her credit cards". She had gone on a spending spree to hide a problem from her husband.

"The gibbness of the statement is far from relevant and is horrifying in its naivety. Credit is a part of everyday life and should not be feared, but used wisely," he said.

The seminar has pledges of attendance from more than 20 banks and top financial institutions, as well as police, social and probation workers.

The recently published report of the Money Advice Funding Working Party, headed by Lord Ezra, found that there were only 290 full-time debt advisers in the UK, and a similar number of part-time unpaid volunteers. Yet the working party estimated that a minimum of 200,000 households were in serious financial difficulty and said that financial advice services could not meet this demand.

Its main recommendation was the setting up of a Money Advice Trust to raise £9.9 million, £6 million of which should come from the finance industry, to expand financial advice services, which do not receive local authority or government funds.

Mr Neil Grant, director of the Finance Houses Association and secretary of the committee that prepared the report, said he was hopeful that the industry would meet the report's recommendations. He said, however, that not all agencies which granted credit would necessarily give money towards advice about money.

"The working party was a little uncomfortable about the direction some advice about money was taking," he said. Support in debt, however, was different in that it tended towards an analytical approach; some other agencies followed a "first-aid approach".

A Manchester woman, aged 60, spoke of a decline into debt of £15,000 brought on by the sudden death of her husband. She said that she had no hope of paying all her creditors, but sent them all she could afford from her pension.

"All my money went on paying for my debts and I had none left to live on. I thought I did not need any help, yet it was getting worse and worse. I thought the only solution was to die... There are times even now when I go to Stuart Giles and cry and say I do not think I can carry on," she said.

Mrs Lesley Edwards, aged 42, described her own debt nightmare. She said she had begun getting into debt when she left work to look after her

family after her husband bought a business.

"It did not make the money it was supposed to make. I had to start robbing Peter to pay Paul. We could not look at one another without arguing. We could not pay the mortgage or anything else. We ended up owing £14,500."

Court summonses began to arrive, but Mrs Edwards hid them in a drawer and "forgot" about them. "I felt so guilty, I cannot explain the fear, the shame, the helplessness I felt... I took tranquilizers but they didn't work. I was living in a cotton-wool world."

A solicitor told her to go bankrupt. She turned to the Citizens' Advice Bureau, which referred her to Mr Giles. "The first thing Stuart did was treat me as a human being. He told me I was in trouble, but said there was a way out."

Mr Ron Bain, aged 48, a community nurse working with the mentally handicapped, is something of a hot gossip on the subject of Support in Debt. "My whole life has improved. I can face things now that I have never been able to face before. I have hope for the future."

Mr Robert Smith, a social worker, was equally euphoric. After two years in the support group his confidence had returned: "That has led to a more positive attitude at work, which has resulted in a recent promotion."

The financial industry has nothing but praise for the Support in Debt (SID) initiative. Mr Tom Taylor, regional general manager for the Halifax Building Society, which has seconded a member of staff to the support group, said: "SID recognizes credit as part of everyday life. It also recognizes that some people cannot manage credit as effectively as others. Advisers who tell debtors to rip up their credit cards are dealing with the symptom rather than the cause of the problem."

Mr Peter Chorlton, a lending manager at the National Westminster bank, said the bank had given £2000 to the group last year. "Stuart tries to look behind the problem and see how people get into debt," he said. "He not only tries to get people to accept responsibility for their indebtedness, which of course is of benefit to us, but to look at the other side of their problems as well."

Mrs Elizabeth Stanton, director of the Retail Credit Group, set up to represent retailers who offer credit, described a "sea change in understanding" that had taken place among financial services over the past five years in their attitude to debt and advice about money.

"Just as the credit industry has learned they cannot get money out of a stone, so money advice workers are less hysterical about the people who lend money when asked."



Lord Ezra: An estimated 200,000 in difficulty

Villagers protest at Vale of Aylesbury dump plan

By Tom Giles

THE chairman of the National Westminster Bank has agreed to lead protesters from seven Buckinghamshire villages in opposing plans for an 80-acre industrial waste dump in the Vale of Aylesbury, an area of natural beauty. Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, is "deeply concerned" at the proposals, by Hales Waste Control Ltd, which are to be considered by Aylesbury Vale District Council next month.

The waste disposal company, based in Chesbunt, Hertfordshire, has said that the dumping operation, at a site on Grove Farm, Birtton, near Aylesbury, could involve up to 200 lorry movements a day for seven days a week, over a period of nine years.

The company says that the deposited industrial and household waste will be covered with top-soil, the grass gradually re-sown and the land re-contoured.

Lord Alexander, who lives in the nearby village of Weedon, said: "I share the deep concern of villagers at this proposal to despoil this

precious area of rural England. It is only necessary to drive from the Midlands through Milton Keynes towards Aylesbury to realize just how fragile is the area of countryside which divides Greater London from the Midlands."

"This can only be preserved if local authorities are vigilant and determined to maintain it in full." Much of the proposed area falls on pasture land leased to a tenant farmer by an insurance firm based in London. Hales have already said the firm has supported their plans for a dump.

The protesters, from the surrounding villages of Birtton, Cublington, Aston Abbots, Rowsham, Mulcott, Wingrave and Weedon, have argued, however, that the scheme would set a "dangerous precedent" if it was granted planning permission. "It is not a pit and it is not a quarry. It is open farm and meadowland," their spokesman, Mr David White, said.

Mr Arthur Beard, a spokesman for Hales, insisted that the dumping would not be

"out of keeping" with the Vale's landscape. The operation would only affect 12 acres of land at a time and each acre would be properly reseeded before the dumping was continued elsewhere.

"The farmland will still be in use while we are doing the filling. Our operation is to fill and restore progressively — possibly to an improved quality," he said. "We are not considering this site lightly. It is quite an attractive area and we have considered all the geographical and environmental consequences."

He added that figures for the operation given in the application were maximum estimates. The work was more likely to be done over a five-day week with just 100 movements a day. Mr Beard conceded, however, environmental opposition to the dumping was already strong.

Buckingham County Council's planning sub-committee, which will make the final decision on the application, will give its verdict during the summer or autumn.

WHAT HAVE LABOUR DONE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CHARGE? PUT IT UP

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Lithuania cuts off goods for Moscow in tit-for-tat action

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

LITHUANIA'S government spokesman, Mr Česlovas Juršenas, declared on television yesterday that Moscow has ordered all goods trains to the country to be stopped.

He added that items not reaching Lithuania included those contracted for as part of separate Lithuanian deals with individual Soviet factories.

Mr Juršenas also read out a letter from Mr Romualdas Ozalas, Lithuania's Deputy Prime Minister, to Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, in which he said that, as a consequence of Soviet moves, Lithuania would no longer supply the Soviet Union with a range of goods, including tables, television screens, electronic components and textiles.

Lithuania has a near monopoly of television parts and textiles in the Soviet Union and several factories relying on Lithuanian supplies elsewhere may have to close.

It was also announced yesterday that the oil refinery at Mazėikiai will today entirely cease production for lack of fuel. The huge fertilizer plant at Jonava and the construction materials factory at New Akmenė will also close today.

Between them they employ more than 10,000 people. On the eve of the departure of another Lithuanian delegation to Moscow a Soviet official declared in Vilnius yesterday that the republic leadership's present course could have "catastrophic re-

sults". Mr Andrei Gyrenko, the Soviet Committee Secretary for National Questions, appearing at a press conference of the rump Soviet Communist Party in Lithuania, said that in an extreme situation direct rule by President Gorbachev could be introduced.

Mr Gyrenko was one of the Soviet officials who last week unofficially suggested to a group of Lithuanian intellectuals visiting Moscow that, if Lithuania stopped the further implementation of independence by suspending various laws, but not necessarily the Declaration of Independence itself, Moscow might be prepared to start dialogue and be prepared to guarantee the granting of independence in two years' time.

Today's Lithuanian delegation to Moscow, led by Mr Bronius Kuzmickas, the Vice-President, will reportedly explore the possibility of a compromise embodying some elements of this proposal, but it is doubtful that they will see high-level Soviet officials. Equally at issue is whether the Lithuanian leadership can bring itself to suspend laws already passed.

Mr Antanas Paulauskas, the Lithuanian state prosecutor, said yesterday that suspending the implementation of independence "would be one way to make a dialogue. I have spoken to our representatives in Moscow and I think that the Kremlin wants to have a dialogue, and is prepared to

close its eyes to our Declaration of Independence itself".

A member of Sajudis, the Lithuanian independence movement, said President Landsbergis was swinging towards the idea of suspending the independence process, "but it is like having a leg cut off. You may have accepted it intellectually, but it is very difficult to actually make up your mind".

He added that Lithuania needs to make the offer in such a way as to bring Moscow to the negotiating table, but not in such a way as to surrender a crucial point without receiving any formal guarantee from Moscow in return.

"The delegation is going to Moscow to talk about the terms on which negotiations can be held, but our side has not yet framed all its terms for negotiations," a Sajudis official said.

● **Conflict fear:** A meeting of several thousand Latvian deputies in Riga at the weekend called for the republic's new Supreme Soviet to declare independence when it meets on May 3, and there are fears that this will lead to conflict between Latvians and other ethnic groups, who make up 48 per cent of the population.

The meeting of deputies of all Latvia's representative bodies was called by the Latvian Popular Front. About 5,000 of the republic's approximately 16,000 deputies attended. The resolution was passed by a show of hands, with 41 against.



Soviet demonstrators on a one-day hunger strike holding anti-Lenin banners near his statue in Leningrad yesterday. One banner read: "Don't forget the gulag"

Nordic countries signal opposition to blockade

By Christopher Follett in Copenhagen and Our Foreign Staff

FOREIGN ministers of the five Nordic countries yesterday expressed "deep concern" at Moscow's economic blockade of Lithuania and called for an immediate end to Soviet economic pressure.

Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish Foreign Minister, described the emergency meeting in Copenhagen as a political signal. "Negotiations between Moscow and Lithuania are vital: threats, violent actions and force can only complicate the situation," he said. Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland have close historical and cultural

ties with Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.

EC foreign ministers on Saturday issued their strongest condemnation yet of Soviet actions in Lithuania, and agreed to keep the situation under urgent review.

They called on the Soviet Government and Lithuania to avoid measures that would aggravate the crisis. But they stopped short of offering Lithuania any help to beat the blockade, despite a request from Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Lithuanian Prime Minister, for diplomatic recognition and prac-

tical and moral support.

Lithuania is sure to be a main item on the agenda again on Saturday, when Mrs Thatcher joins fellow EC leaders in Dublin to discuss German reunification and Eastern Europe.

In Copenhagen yesterday Mrs Prunskiene welcomed the EC's condemnation of Moscow's blockade, adding that Lithuania had been offered financial aid to meet the crisis. The offers came from private interests in the United States, she said. The European Investment Bank had offered Lithuania \$100,000 (£61,000).

Lithuania intended to follow this up by opening "independence accounts" in other countries where gifts to help the republic, now facing the fourth day of an economic blockade by the Soviet Union, could be paid in by sympathizers, Mrs Prunskiene said.

● **WASHINGTON:** Mr Robert Dole, the Republican leader in the US Senate, yesterday sharply criticized Mr Gorbachev's conduct during the Lithuanian crisis and questioned whether he should have been invited to a summit meeting with President Bush next month (Martin Fletcher writes).

Mr Dole and Mr Tom Foley, the House Speaker, dismissed the possibility of the United States trying to supply Lithuania with vital commodities being withheld by Moscow, but agreed that the US should "slow-walk" on negotiating a trade agreement that would benefit Mr Gorbachev. Arms control negotiations were of mutual benefit and should proceed as normal, they said.

Nationalist feelings run high at Chernobyl rallies

From A Correspondent, Kiev

TENS of thousands of demonstrators gathered at rallies throughout the Ukraine yesterday to mark the beginning of the fourth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster.

In Kiev, the republic's capital, about 60,000 people took part in a march which paralysed the city centre. Protesters, many carrying the blue and yellow flag of independent Ukraine, hurled missiles at lines of police guarding statues of Lenin. The marchers shouted "Shame on you" and "Bastards" to rows of armed police who stood in front of the two Lenin statues and the Lenin museum which the demonstrators had to pass.

Many of the missiles thrown at police lines were copies of Lenin's work. The day's protests started with two hours of speeches by Ukrainian MPs from the Supreme Soviet in Moscow and speakers from Latvia.

Mr Bolodimyr Yavorivsky, a Supreme Soviet deputy, demanded that President Valentyna Shevchenko of the Ukraine be arrested and made to stand trial for criminal charges over her part in helping to cover up the Chernobyl disaster, in April 1986.

Mr Ilans Erdmans, a leader of the Latvian Popular Front, told the crowd: "I hope the Ukrainians too will be

deciding their fate on their own and not from Moscow. We must all follow the same path towards democracy and independence."

The march was led by a choir dressed in national costume which sang the anthem of the Free Ukrainian Army, which was defeated by the Bolsheviks in 1920 after three years of independence.

As well as chants for independence, the demonstrators shouted anti-communist and anti-KGB slogans. In Kiev's central October Revolution Square, hundreds of marchers broke away and rushed police lines in front of the city's largest Lenin statue. The police stood firm.

A spokesman for Rukh, the Ukrainian popular movement, said: "The demonstrations in Kiev we expect more than 100,000 people to gather."

In some Ukrainian cities today's planned marches were banned by the hard-line Communist authorities.

● **MOSCOW:** The Soviet Government has proposed a 16 billion rouble (£1.6 billion) emergency programme to help

people affected by the Chernobyl disaster, *Pravda* said yesterday.

The programme would include money for continued resettlement of people who live in affected areas, improving medical care for those whose health has been affected and providing the population with "clean" food, *Pravda* said. It did not say where the money would come from.

In February Mr Lev Maksimov, Belorussia's envoy to the United Nations, appealed to foreign governments for aid, saying the bill for Chernobyl was turning out higher than expected. He estimated that 17 billion roubles was needed.

Solidarity snipes at Mazowiecki

From Roger Boyes, Gdansk

THE Solidarity congress, with Mr Lech Walesa now firmly at its helm, yesterday pushed for rapid political reforms in Poland and made plain that the union would no longer be an uncritical supporter of the Government.

The epic struggle of the first three days of the congress - whether to ditch Mr Walesa, rap him across the knuckles or bless his attempts to be President of Poland - was resolved in an emotional election on Saturday.

Mr Walesa secured a new tenure as chairman of the union by an overwhelming majority - 362 out of 467 votes cast. He had a much rougher ride at the first Solidarity congress in 1981.

Mr Walesa was the sponsor of his main rival, Mr Andrzej Slowik, of Lodz. Mr Slowik, who has been at constant loggerheads with Mr Walesa, reached this arrangement knowing that he had no chance of success.

He wanted to show that his challenge to Mr Walesa was not intended to divide Solidarity. But the chief effect was to remove from the congress agenda the personality and large, if easily bruised, ego of Mr Walesa.

Instead Mr Slowik put forward a vision of a pure trade union while Mr Walesa argued for a mix between a political organization and a workers' interest group.

Neither Mr Slowik nor the even more lacklustre candidate, Mr Tomasz Wojcik, from Wroclaw, who picked up 25 votes, could really aspire to anything more than sober day-by-day management while the Solidarity delegates - almost all of Mr Walesa's generation - have become accustomed to firework displays.

Mr Jacek Kuron, a star of

MOSCOW NOTEBOOK

A tale of two cities replaces Soviet capital

By Mary Dejevsky

FROM this weekend there are two cities of Moscow. One is the capital of the Soviet Union, the other is just another rambling Soviet conurbation which happens to be in the same geographical location.

The division was enacted by a presidential decree which took the authorization of demonstrations and public events in central Moscow out of the jurisdiction of the Moscow City Council and passed it up to the Soviet Council of Ministers. This means, in effect, the Prime Minister.

The decree was promulgated late on Friday without warning and without elaboration. But it cannot have been unrelated to the mood of the newly elected Moscow City Council which, two hours later and by a large majority, chose an iconoclastic economist, Mr Gavril Popov, to be Mayor of Moscow.

Earlier, the city's two newspapers were removed from the council's jurisdiction and handed over to the Moscow City Communist Party.

Moscowites, and the city council which they elected a month ago, are now waiting to see what other responsibilities will be summarily removed from the council on the ground that Moscow is not just Moscow but the Soviet capital. Ominously, new legislation "on the status of Moscow" is said to be at the drafting stage.

The result could be that the new council, which is dominated by members of the Reformist Bloc for Democratic Russia, is left without a real city to govern. More likely, it could be left with all the awkward bits and none of the delights.

It could, for instance, be expected to take overall responsibility for housing, supplies and the infrastructure - the chief sources of popular discontent in the capital - while the centre basks in the glory reflected from the Kremlin's golden domes and a number of recently opened hotels.

The centre could also capture much of the city's hard currency revenue by the same mechanism, leaving the city council with long-neglected problems and little real money with which to rectify them.

Even in those areas where the council was acknowledged to have full responsibility, its aims could be sabotaged by directives from the centre requisitioning, for instance, desirable housing on the ground that it was needed "by the capital".

Some of the more belligerent councillors are calling for a blockade of the Moscow Inner Ring Road to prevent a "takeover" by the centre. Others, including the new mayor, are counselling caution in the hope that the threat from the

centre does not materialize and that they will be left in peace to introduce such changes as private house-building, property sales and freedom for foreign investment.

The divergence of minds between Mayor Popov and his council on the one hand, and the country's central leadership on the other, bears comparison with that between the Greater London Council of Mr Ken Livingstone and Mrs Thatcher's Conservative Government (except that the political positions are reversed). The Kremlin, however, has instruments that are both more immediate and more blunt than legislation on rate-capping which curbed Mr Livingstone.

It can use those members of the council who oppose or fear the proposed reforms to try to block them: the past week has seen a plethora of procedural obstacles erected against Mr Popov's election as Mayor.

It can also use the city's Communist Party bodies, the majority of whose members no longer hold council positions, to impede the implementation of new legislation. (The decree referring demonstrations to the Central Council of Ministers was apparently discussed in advance with the former mayor, but not with the new council.) If these two methods fail, it can resort to central government or presidential decree.

The blame for the present conflict - and the conflicts that are certain to come - lies squarely with President Gorbachev, whose response to the reformists' electoral victory in Moscow and in other cities has been as ambiguous as his attitudes in so many other spheres of policy.

While taking the credit for reviving political life across the Soviet Union, he seems to be taking fright at the results.

Moscowites, like the citizens of Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, Lvov and other places, did not use their votes - as the Kremlin may have hoped - just to give a safe group of marginally pro-reform councillors a democratic mandate, and so limit discontent.

They elected, when they could identify them, the most radical candidates on the ballot paper and the ones least associated with the Communist Party establishment.

The first sessions of the new Moscow city council last week were largely obscured by the drama being played out between the Kremlin and Lithuania.

The battle for Moscow has now been joined in earnest. Mayor Popov, a stocky man of Greek descent, and his deputy, the youthful Mr Sergei Stankevich, make a formidable team for the reformists, but without central backing the cards are stacked against them.

Mandela date for Thatcher

Umtata, Transkei - Mr Nelson Mandela hopes to meet Mrs Thatcher in London on July 6 to argue for continued sanctions against South Africa (Kevin Bell writes).

Mr Mandela told a rally that he deeply regretted Britain's unilateral decision to ease sanctions. "Teamwork in both national and international affairs is crucial, and individualistic action can serve only to disrupt and frustrate realization of common goals."

Leading article, page 13

US cash for drugs war

Washington - The US will announce this week a \$35 million (£21.3 million) military aid package to help Peru combat the Marxist Shining Path guerrillas who protect the nation's coca producers (Martin Fletcher writes).

It will be the third big US commitment to Third World counter-insurgency, and reflects a new strategy of fighting drug abuse by targeting Andean producers.

Callas ghost laid to rest

Rome - A galeable La Scala opera house in Milan has ended in a triumphant performance of Verdi's *La Traviata* and the discovery of Triana Fabrikal, a soprano who is already being compared to the legendary Maria Callas (Paul Bompard writes).

For 26 years La Scala had shied from staging the opera so closely linked to Callas. An attempt in 1964 ended in cat-calls. But after Saturday's first night, Signor Carlo Maria Radini, the Scala superintendent, said: "The wall between La Scala and La Traviata has crumbled in an evening."

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Pope backs Slovaks' wish for own identity

From Richard Bassett, Prague, and Peter Green, Velehrad, Moravia

CELEBRATING Mass in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, the Pope yesterday told more than a million Slovaks that he supported them as a nation with its own identity.

Although he was careful to avoid encouraging the rivalry between Czechs and Slovaks which has emerged since November's peaceful revolution, the Pope dwelt on the long struggle of the Slovaks to preserve their national values.

"Many times Slovakia has had to struggle just to survive," he said in the last sermon of his two-day visit, addressing the largest congregation of his tour. "Despite the traps laid for the Slovaks' very ethnic identity, the people found the strength to resist with unbreakable constancy," he said.

As well as many Polish pilgrims waving Solidarity banners, there were tens of thousands of Slovaks carrying flags bearing the double-cross emblem of the old independent Slovakia.

While nearly 60 per cent of Czechs are Catholic, Church sources here estimate that more than 90 per cent of the Slovak population is Catholic. During the communist repression, the Catholic faith was preserved here by underground priests, many of whom were from the Slovak territories east of Bratislava.

Yesterday the Pope paid tribute to the Slovaks' trials under the Com-



Church triumphant: The Pope greets pilgrims at Velehrad

munist regime. "Recent times have been hard - priests threatened, monks expelled, nuns suppressed, and children trained in falsehood. So many people have suffered here for their faith," he said.

For the Slovaks, however, the Pope's visit was more than just a tribute and a reward for their struggles, it was a symbol of Czechoslovakia's return to its rightful

position as one of the great Catholic nations of Europe less than five years after the Communists had tried to outlaw Catholicism throughout the country.

Earlier the Pope visited Velehrad, in Moravia, where thousands of pilgrims in 1985 braved police checkpoints to attend the 1,000th anniversary of the mission of St Cyril and St Methodius, who brought Christianity to the Slavs.

Yesterday a quarter of a million faithful came to see the Pope in Velehrad. About 100,000 stood in a space not much larger than a rugby pitch beside the cathedral, and the rest stood ankle-deep in mud a quarter of a mile away to watch the proceedings on a huge television screen imported from Austria.

"It is the biggest day in my life for me - fantastic," said Mr Milan Lipka as he stood with his wife, Jitka, in a mud patch before Velehrad's 17th-century Baroque basilica to watch the Pope hold the first papal Mass in this wellspring of the Slavonic Church.

"It is a good end to the changes of our revolution," said Mr Lipka. "Now we can practise our faith freely."

In Prague, the Pope praised non-Catholics who, he said, had "contributed, at the cost of much sacrifice, to the defeat of one of the most serious attempts to deprive man of the freedom to which he is destined".

Czechoslovakia was on the thresh-

old of a new era which would need spiritual values, he said, echoing President Havel's words of welcome on Saturday. Mr Havel, referring to the new Czechoslovakia, said: "Jealous rivalries, personal ambitions, have made many of us quickly forget about what united us only several months ago." He hoped the Pope's visit would remind Czechs and Slovaks of the need for a "source of real human responsibility".

Throughout the papal visit a third impressive figure has also been visible - that of Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, aged 90, the Primate of Czechoslovakia.

Cardinal Tomasek, who four years ago said he would not die until his country's Catholics were free, took part despite his fragile health in the rain-drenched, open-air service held on Saturday afternoon behind Prague's castle.

No one, perhaps, is better acquainted with the cardinal with the privations Catholics suffered until last December in a country where, unlike Poland, the Church was always on the defensive, and the weekend almost certainly was the crowning event of his life.

● **Cuban visit:** The Pope will visit Cuba in December, a papal spokesman said in Velehrad yesterday.

He said the trip would come after December 8 but well before Christmas. He did not give a precise date but said the tour would last about five days. (Reuters)

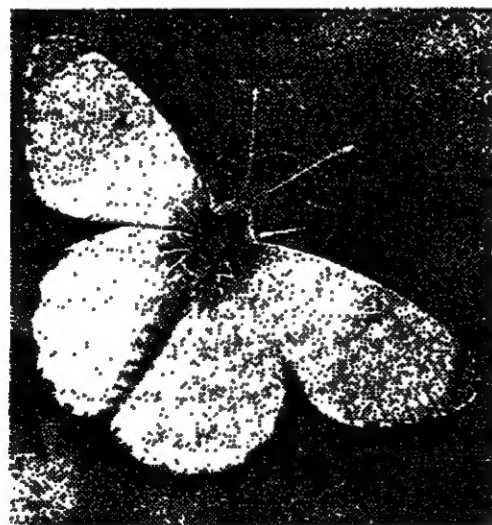
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Shia leader pours cold water on new hope for hostages

From Juan Carlos Gamallo, Baalbek, Lebanon

MR HUSSEIN Musawi takes a long, deep breath, fixes his eyes on an invisible point on the wall and begins talking slowly, with a philosophical pose.

"You see a pond one day," he says, drawing an imaginary landscape with his right hand. "The next day you go back. Some of the water has evaporated, some has drained away. There has been a change, but it remains a pond."

Mr Musawi, one of the radical Shia Muslim leaders in close contact with kidnapping groups in Lebanon, is visibly agitated by his metaphor.

Chastising his well-trimmed grey beard, he smiles as one struggles to decipher it.

"What he is saying is that the release of one hostage would not necessarily augur freedom for the others. 'The pond,' he says, nodding, 'is still there.'"

Mr Terry White, the Arab-bishop of Canterbury's mission special envoy, failed to act as an intermediary between Islamic Jihad, parent organization of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Kuwaiti Government over its central demand for the release of 15 Arabs imprisoned in Kuwait. He was seized after the kidnappers became suspicious when his name was linked to the arms-for-hostages deal between Washington and Tehran.

"The Islamic Jihad will never forget its imprisoned struggles," said Mr Musawi at his heavily guarded home in Baalbek. This suggests the kidnappers will no longer be prepared to free their hostages solely in exchange for concessions made to Iran. They now want their own original demands to be met.

After years of silence, Mr Musawi is suddenly available to foreign journalists. He has become an interpreter of Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine movements and, ever since he strengthened his alliance with the Syrians, a forerunner of hostage-related events that inevitably undermine Damascus's role in solving the crisis.

His fears for his personal safety, however, are as strong as ever. Anti-aircraft guns sit near the entrance of his home in the northern sector of Baalbek. Young, bearded gunmen inspect pencils, notebooks and even the shoes of visitors to the one-story house, not far from the hilltop Abdallah barracks, once the Lebanese Army headquarters in the Bekaa Valley, now the main Iranian military base in Lebanon.

Mr Musawi, the former schoolteacher who helped to create Hezbollah in 1982, is an urbane man who certainly does not match the Western picture of a Muslim revolutionary. It is difficult to imagine this soft-spoken man in his well cut business suit organizing the suicide bombing attacks that destroyed the US Marine and French paratroop bases in Beirut in 1983.

"I don't think that Islamic Jihad will drop its demands," Mr Musawi said when asked if the release of an American could signal the beginning of the end of the hostage crisis. "I have nothing to do with Islamic Jihad," he pointed out quickly. "I am only saying what I think."

But this seems to be more than just an educated guess. His cousin, Hussein Youssef Musawi, is one of seven prisoners serving life sentences in Kuwait. Mr Musawi clearly misses him. "He was tortured, mistreated," he says, his eyes flashing in anger. "But he is a strong man. His spirit is stronger than that of the Emir of Kuwait."

In his view, if the Americans want to see their hostages again, they will have to persuade Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, to release the prisoners.

Mr Musawi's cousin was arrested along with 16 other members of the al-Dawa ("The Call") group, the Shia Iraqi organization blamed for the bombing of the US and French embassies in Kuwait in 1983.

"Like the water in the pond, the Emir you see today might be different tomorrow," he said. "One thing is certain: it is not in the mentality of Islamic Jihad to make concessions now."

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The hospital also briefly treated another former hostage, Mr. Mithileshwar Singh, an Indian-born American citizen, who was freed in 1988.

Once firm word is received of a release, another team of military medical specialists is also sent from its base in Heidelberg. The team, part of the military's 7th Medical Command established in 1985, is made up of experts trained in the special psychological problems that arise after release from long-term captivity.

Dr. William Cline, who heads the stress management team, said that when hostages arrive they first ask about their families and then often want to talk about their captivity.

He said the team tries to create a "safe environment" for the former hostages to help them cope with the stress of release. "It helps them relax before going home."

Released hostages generally stay at the hospital for a few days before being flown home to the United States.

US officials refuse to give details of their procedures, but the personnel at the Air Force's Combined Support Wing Medical Centre in Wiesbaden are old hands at dealing with hostage arrivals. In 1981, the

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Dr. William Cline, who heads the stress management team, said that when hostages arrive they first ask about their families and then often want to talk about their captivity.

He said the team tries to create a "safe environment" for the former hostages to help them cope with the stress of release. "It helps them relax before going home."



Hand in hand: Princess Stephanie of Monaco, the youngest daughter of Prince Rainier and the late Princess Grace, and M Jean-Yves Le Fur, a French property magnate, stepping out of La Tégère restaurant in Paris on Saturday after announcing their engagement to friends and relatives at a private party (AP reports from Paris). Among the 50 guests were her sister, Princess Caroline, and her brother, Prince Albert. The Princess, aged 25, has made several public appearances with M Le Fur, aged 26, since last year, including the Festival of Magic in Monte Carlo. Sources say they plan to marry in Monaco in June.

Drive for Kashmir peace as troops die

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

INDIAN and Pakistani soldiers died in exchanges of fire across the Kashmir border over the weekend as Islamabad and Delhi prepared for high-level talks in New York to reduce the threat of war.

Mr Inder Gujral, the Indian Foreign Minister, emphasized that he did not regard the incidents as the start of hostilities. He was speaking in London on his way to New York, where he is due to meet his Pakistani counterpart this week. "We are not interested in war. It doesn't help anybody."

Cross-border skirmishes have occurred almost daily for years across the rugged mountains in Kashmir, but rarely are they reported. In the present volatile atmosphere, however, every small incident increases the danger of serious confrontation. Reporters from Kashmir said a few Pakistani soldiers died and that there were also casualties on the Indian side.

For all the recent sabre-rattling by Islamabad and Delhi, which has abated noticeably in the past week, neither side seriously believes war is imminent. Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union are involved in diplomatic efforts to persuade both sides to defuse tensions.

Indian security forces say they have started to control subversive activity in the Kashmir valley, where a two-year secessionist campaign exploded into violence against Indian targets early this year.

Mr Joginder Singh, Inspector-General of the Central Reserve Police Force, which has spearheaded the drive against subversives, said yesterday that security forces would be able to restore normal life in the region within six months.

Winds of 120 m ph demolished houses, uprooted power lines and toppled hundreds of trees in Pabna district. Fifty bodies, mostly of women and children, were found in a rice mill.

Mr Wayne Goss, Premier of Queensland, said in Brisbane, the centre for air force transport planes bringing out evacuees and dropping food for people and livestock.

More than 15 towns are now cut off in Queensland, thousands of people have been evacuated and an estimated 25,000 sheep have drowned.

In northern New South Wales, homes at Nyngan were evacuated and an estimated 25,000 sheep have drowned.

Despite an easing of rain yesterday, officials said water levels would continue to rise. Every available government and air force plane was used in a round-the-clock weekend relief operation covering more than 500 miles of land under water in central Queensland and New South Wales.

In outback Queensland, the 4,000 people of Charleville — half of them stranded on the rooftops of their homes — were airlifted to a tent city in Brisbane. Those evacuated told of food shortages and the shock of watching cars and houses washed away.

A state of emergency was declared in the towns left without power, drinking water and communications. "People are just walking round in a

Falklands plea to extend fishing zone rejected

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN has again rejected an appeal by the Falkland Islands for its 150-mile fishing zone to be extended to 200 miles to protect fish stocks against a huge international fishing fleet.

The Islanders fear their main source of income is being jeopardized by large-scale over-fishing by an estimated 200 to 300 squid-fishing vessels from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and the Soviet Union.

Some have had their names and numbers painted on and do not fly flags to avoid identification by a patrol aircraft and fisheries vessels operated by the Falkland Islands Government.

The fleet, working to the north of the 150-mile zone, catches most of the squid as it grows and migrates south, leaving less for the vessels inside the zone which pay licence fees to the Falklands Government. Much of the fishing is legal, being in international waters, but some vessels slip into Falklands waters to poach squid at night, leaving before a spotter aircraft begins its patrol.

Both sides are playing for high stakes. The Falklands authorities found themselves £100,000 richer last Thursday after arresting a Taiwanese vessel, the *Chi Teng*. The master had pleaded not guilty to fishing without a licence and the vessel was allowed to leave after a bond had been deposited. This was confiscated when the vessel failed to return to Stanley for resumed court hearings.

It was a small victory in a war which the 2,000 Islanders believe they are losing. Unless Britain acts soon they believe the fishing bonanza which has transformed the Falklands economy will soon end.

Visiting British ministers have been asked repeatedly to implement Britain's right under international law to claim a 200-mile limit, but have shown little interest. A fresh appeal was made last week by Mr Terry Peck, a member of the Legislative Council, in talks with Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Undersecretary of State at the Foreign Office.

Mr Lewis Clifton, the Falkland Islands representative in London, said Mr Peck had the council "solidly behind him".

A Whitehall source confirmed that Britain had reserved its right to impose a 200-mile limit, but said it had "no plans" to do so. He said scientific evidence suggested an extension would improve stocks by only 4 per cent.

But Mr Peck and Mr Clifton said it was vital to allow 40 per cent of the stock to escape each year, to breed and conserve stocks. Instead only about 9 per cent was escaping.

They said that over-fishing last year had forced the Falklands to cut the number of licences and to introduce "voluntary" conservation measures in international waters. Already two vessels have had their licences withdrawn for disregarding the measures.

Illex, the most valuable squid species, accounts for 74 per cent of licence fees, which in turn provide 70 per cent of the Falkland Islands Government's revenue. But revenue is expected to drop by £2 million this year to £27 million, and the Islanders fear next year could be worse. The total catch of illex in Falklands waters fell by a quarter between 1987 and 1989.

Britain's reason for refusing the 200-mile zone is its reluctance to upset a recent improvement in relations with Argentina.

Fierce fighting foils Nigeria coup attempt

By Elizabeth Obadina in Lagos and Andrew McEwen

TROOPS loyal to President Babangida of Nigeria foiled an attempted coup by junior officers against his military Government yesterday after fierce fighting around Dodan Barracks, the presidential residence.

State radio headquarters near the residence was held for several hours by rebels who at one stage claimed to have toppled the President. After loyal troops had regained control, General Sanni Abacha, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on the radio that all service chiefs had "pledged their unflinching support" to the President who, he said, was safe.

He reiterated the military Government's commitment to hand over power to a democratically elected civilian government in 1992.

Had the coup succeeded, Nigeria would have risked a civil war. Major Ije Ogazua Oka, the coup leader, had said he wanted to end the domination of the south — a mixture of Christians, Muslims and other faiths — by the mainly Muslim north.

He announced the "exclusion" of the five northern states from the federal republic, and gave northerners working as civil servants in the south a week to go home. Major Oka said he was acting on behalf of the "patriotic and well-meaning peoples of the middle belt and southern parts of the country."

His statements reflected the bitter tensions between northerners and southerners and between Muslims and Christians, as well as older tribal enmities.

In a broadcast repeated every 20 minutes, Major Oka said the states of Sokoto, Bauchi, Katsina, Kano and Borno would be expelled from the federation until demands were met.

He wanted to overturn the appointment of Mr Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki, a wealthy businessman, as the fifteenth

Sultan of Sokoto caliphate, replacing him with Mr Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido, the previous Sultan's son, referring to him as the "people's choice".

The new Sultan would have to pledge non-interference by the aristocratic elites in affairs of state before the north and south would be allowed again to unite, he said.

Dick Hall, editor of *Africa Analysis*, said in London: "The failure of the coup has averted a threat of civil war. Had change come about in this way, there would have been much bloodshed."

There have been five successful coups since independence from Britain in 1960, and General Babangida recently claimed to have been instrumental in four of them. The last, in 1985, brought him to power.

Many Nigerians, however, believe that this method of changing governments has had its day and believe General Babangida capable of escape from the tightest political corner.

Yesterday's rebels sought to establish a government which would represent the military, the trade union movement, the Nigerian Bar Association, the National Student Association and the National Union of Journalists, who have all been among the severest critics of the Government.

Major Oka described General Babangida's Government as satanic, dictatorial, homosexual, corrupt and "drug barons".

Nigeria has a long history of conflicts, but financial hardships in recent years have greatly increased tension.

Measures aimed at economic restructuring have hit the poor hardest, while at the same time securing approval from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, leading to greater Western aid. Britain last year promised £100 million.

Two universities and a polytechnic have been closed in recent weeks after student protests against the Government's acceptance of a new \$120 million (£73.5 million) World Bank loan to refinance the 26 ailing universities in Nigeria.

Living standards have plummeted, with a 60 per cent inflation rate last year cutting food budgets, increasing the incidence of malnutrition, making transportation expensive and scarce, and reducing school enrolment.

Israel gave lease aid to settlers
Jerusalem — The Israeli Government has acknowledged that it helped to buy a lease for Jewish settlers in the Christian quarter of old Jerusalem. The settlement, the first in the Christian quarter since Israel captured the Old City from Jordan in 1967, has sparked protests by Christian and Muslim Palestinians.

The 150 settlers who moved in on April 11, two days before Good Friday, are fighting a legal battle with the Greek Orthodox Church which owns the building. (Reuters)

Peace move
Bangkok — Another diplomatic effort to end the war in Cambodia began at the weekend as both sides in the conflict stepped up their preparations for a new military offensive.

Riot at prison
Sydney — Four prisoners were injured when inmates at the maximum-security Parramatta jail rioted and set fire to an office building, officials said. (AP)

Bomb claim
Madrid — Basque separatist guerrillas have claimed responsibility for a parcel bomb which blew off a secretary's hand at offices of Seville's Expo-92 World Fair. (Reuters)

Afghan plea
Kabul — President Najibullah has called on the Organization of Islamic Conference to reinstate Afghanistan, which was suspended after Soviet forces entered the country 11 years ago. (AFP)

Cocaine haul
Mexico City — Authorities here have seized 1.5 tonnes of cocaine valued at about \$150 million (£94 million), their second major drug haul in less than a week. (Reuters)

Gender offender
Warsaw — Polish authorities are agonizing over whether to castrate a stone statue of the horse of one of their national heroes, who was supposed to be riding his legendary mare. (Reuters)

Furore in Italy over a UFO fireball

From Paul Bonapart, Rome

A GIANT fireball, a huge mass of blinding white light, speeding silently across the sky. Thousands of Italians, including four pilots, are wondering what they saw soon after dark on Saturday night.

The large number of reports and their consistency, some coming from policemen and pilots, make Saturday's event one of the most impressive possible UFO sightings in Italy in recent years.

Within minutes, hundreds of calls began jamming the switchboards of newspapers, police stations and military control centres.

The Carabinieri paramilitary police were alerted, and one of their patrol boats cruised for two hours off the coast south of Rome. No trace has yet been found of the mysterious burning object.

In Trivoli, on the hills east of Rome, Signor Nicola Ciarrese, a teacher and amateur astronomer, looked at his watch as soon as he saw the fireball. "It was 8.25," he said. "I saw it for six seconds, then it disappeared and there was a trail of grey smoke which lingered for about four minutes. It was incredibly fast and travelling in a straight line horizontally. I know a little about these phenomena, and I would say it was a meteorite, but a meteorite does not move horizontally and it catches fire much higher up."

Signor Carlo Resca was on duty as supervisor of the radar control centre at the Ciampino airport in Rome. "We received four reports from four different pilots in rapid succession," he says. "They all described a very large object, very luminous, moving silently through the air at great speed like a rocket."

The Italian Defence and Interior Ministries have made no comment. As far as is known, no spaceships have landed in the Roman campagna.

When a daughter was born in 1908 to Edward Steichen, a pioneering American photographer, his friend Henri Matisse presented him with one of his paintings to mark the occasion. Now, eight decades later, the photographer's descendants are fighting a legal battle with New York's Museum of Modern Art, demanding the return of the small, 1905 Fauvist work called *Vue de Collioure a l'Eglise*.

In a lawsuit that has ruptured the close ties between the family and the museum which the photographer had served as benefactor and administrator, the Steichens are arguing that, although the late Kate

Australia steps up floods air rescue

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

ONE of the biggest rescue operations seen in Australia was stepped up yesterday as towns in Victoria were inundated by floods that have made thousands homeless across vast areas of Queensland and New South Wales.

At least one person has died and an unknown number are missing after the highest recorded rainfall in more than 100 years kept water levels rising and surging southwards along the outback river systems of eastern Australia.

Despite an easing of rain yesterday, officials said water levels would continue to rise. Every available government and air force plane was used in a round-the-clock weekend relief operation covering more than 500 miles of land under water in central Queensland and New South Wales.

In outback Queensland, the 4,000 people of Charleville — half of them stranded on the rooftops of their homes — were airlifted to a tent city in Brisbane. Those evacuated told of food shortages and the shock of watching cars and houses washed away.

A state of emergency was declared in the towns left without power, drinking water and communications. "People are just walking round in a

daze," Mr Wayne Goss, Premier of Queensland, said in Brisbane, the centre for air force transport planes bringing out evacuees and dropping food for people and livestock.

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US museum in tug-of-war over \$800,000 Matisse

From Charles Bremner, New York

WHEN a daughter was born in 1908 to Edward Steichen, a pioneering American photographer, his friend Henri Matisse presented him with one of his paintings to mark the occasion. Now, eight decades later, the photographer's descendants are fighting a legal battle with New York's Museum of Modern Art, demanding the return of the small, 1905 Fauvist work called *Vue de Collioure a l'Eglise*.

In a lawsuit that has ruptured the close ties between the family and the museum which the photographer had served as benefactor and administrator, the Steichens are arguing that, although the late Kate

Rodina Steichen, the photographer's daughter, handed the painting to the museum in 1973, she bequeathed it to her grand-niece, Ariana Calderone Steichen.

Miss Steichen, who died in 1988, gave the painting, estimated to be worth some \$800,000 (£490,000), to the museum on "permanent loan" with a pledge that she would bequeath it to the museum. She provided a copy of her will and wrote at the time to the directors, saying she "thanked God that my little Matisse is home safe."

However, the family lawyers say, Miss Steichen changed her mind five years later after the museum went against her wishes and altered a splash of paint Matisse had

accidentally spilled on the work. She then wrote a new will, bequeathing it to her sister.

In 1985 Miss Steichen signed a codicil leaving the Matisse to her grand-niece, specifying that the painting was "owned by me and currently on

When genesis is in conflict

John Habgood, Archbishop of York, sets the embryo debate in a Christian context

The fact that Christians differ on embryo research is felt by some to be a cause of scandal and bewilderment. But why should it be assumed that every moral dilemma has a simple solution? And why should Christians believe that their faith gives them unique and authoritative insights into problems which are substantially new? A moral response which allows tentative exploration of new possibilities, with many checks and balances, may be nearer the mind of God, who knows both our strengths and our weaknesses, than outright acceptance or rejection.

There are, of course, basic principles on which all people of goodwill might expect to agree. The sanctity of human life, the need to give special protection to the weakest and most vulnerable, a consciousness of human limitations and of the dangers of arrogance and self-deception — all are moral starting points which any mind are not in question. But I cannot accept the claims that the Scriptures and Christian tradition give us authoritative moral and theological guidance about the precise point at which the complex processes entailed in the beginnings of an individual human life give it a unique moral status.

I say this not in any way to disparage what some Christians feel about the rights of embryos, but to make the point that the only way to decide sensibly about such matters is to study them and think about them, and not to imagine that there is an unequivocal Christian answer. To be fair, it has to be said that many Christian opponents of embryo research are careful not to make excessive claims, do admit the large areas of uncertainty, and reach their conclusions on a balance of probabilities, with a general bias towards moral caution. The argument, in fact, is not between absolute principles and utilitarian expedience but between different conclusions as to how best to respect and enhance human life.

Human fertilization was first observed as late as 1884, and the complex transformations which lead to the emergence of an identifiable embryo have been described only within quite recent years. Seemingly simple moral claims about the beginning of human life dissolve in the face of this complexity, and there are good arguments for treating any one of three transitions as being the morally decisive one.

Genetic union is decisive in that it produces a unique genetic formula, but it does not at that stage produce a unique and identifiable organism. The frequently cited example of identical twins is the classic illustration of the difference between genetic and organic uniqueness.

Organic uniqueness emerges with the beginnings of cell differentiation, and it is only from this transition phase onwards, at around 14 days, that the difference between a developing embryo and its supporting tissues can be said to exist. If the morally significant dividing line occurs when there is a physical entity in which unique moral value can be perceived, this transition would seem to mark that change, though this is not to imply that the developing conceptus before differentiation lacks all moral status.

Yet another decisive transition, at implantation, differs from the other two in that it defines and creates the relationship within which alone a new life can develop. The relationship thus formed, at first purely physical but later increasingly personal, carries with it moral responsibility for the new life. A conceptus which has either failed to implant naturally, or been prevented from implanting artificially, has never entered into this moral relationship in which its potential might be realized.

Moral arguments such as these rest on the interpretation of scientific evidence, and it should not be surprising if sincere and godly people disagree. My own belief is that the balance of the argument is in favour of the 14-day rule. It seems to me that what some people find offensive about the research, which such a rule might permit has less to do with the scientific story than with deep-rooted feelings about trespassing on forbidden ground. I believe that the Scriptural insights which are frequently and misleadingly cited as evidence of God's views on fertilization find their true application in this enhancement of reverence for the mystery of our human beginnings.

However, the history of medicine is full of examples of forms of reverence for aspects of the human body which have come to be seen in a different light without the loss of respect for persons. Transplant surgery, for instance, was at first felt to be shocking and has now become symbolic of a heroic valuation of human life. Embryo research undoubtedly impinges strongly on our human self-understanding, but under suitable safeguards it also opens the way to a reverential sharing in the mystery of God's creativity, as well as the relief of human suffering. The religious arguments are double-edged; belief that human beings are made in the image of God points both to reverence for human life as actually given, and also to our human possibilities for creative change.

If there is to be argument among Christians about these enormously difficult issues, this is where I suggest it should focus.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Proposals reached us the other day for a privatization which goes beyond what we had dared think possible. The Institute for Economic Affairs has fingered the Church of England.

In its latest journal, the Institute suggests that the Anglican Communion displays classic symptoms of a nationalized industry in decline. There is no proper linkage, it says, between vicars' pay and performance; the organization is weighed down by bureaucracy and losing sight of its objectives. Only its disestablishment, followed by reconstruction on businesslike lines, can save it from terminal decline.

Laugh if you like. People usually laugh at the IEA's proposals when they first hear them. Five years later they adopt them. For my part, I am working already on proposals to give these ideas effect — hopefully in time for inclusion in the Conservative manifesto for the next general election.

Consider the clockings. This is after all a public utility we are talking about. A sacred utility maybe, but that does not make it less relevant that the output is disappointing. The Church is sitting on some exciting properties at key sites in historic city centres. The prospects for a little judicious asset-stripping are mind-boggling.

It is important, though, to learn from the mistakes of early privatizations. So, despite the similarities in end product, British Gas, I think, should not be the model for Canterbury's business plan. Gas was sold as a monopoly, denying the public the benefits of competition. Far more attractive is the thinking behind the proposed sale of the Central Electricity Generating Board. This is being split and sold to two companies while a third (the bit with the nuclear power stations in it) is staying in state ownership.

This nuclear section is said to be of imponderable cost, unquantifiable benefit, and liable to blow up at any time. Plainly the bit of the Church with the Bishop of Durham in it corresponds to that and is probably unsaleable, too. This part should be retained for the nation, for nobody yet knows the full cost of decommissioning

the Right Rev David Jenkins. How best to constitute the two halves that we do float off? I propose a division broadly along the lines of High Church v Low — perhaps Bells 'n' Smells p/c and The Really Charismatic Corporation.

The present Bishop of London wants to retire, but Dr Leonard would get Bells 'n' Smells off to a splendid start in the private sector (with a prospectus in Latin, perhaps?) and must be persuaded to take the helm as its first chairman. There are obvious dangers of a predatory bid here, from an Italian-led competitor, I suggest the Government retain a golden share to forestall dawn raids from Rome.

The Charismatics' first chairman should "emerge" in the frenzy of the initial shareholders' meeting. Yet I accept that part of the Low Church will never feel at home in the Really Charismatic Corporation. That is where the Methodists come in. You might say the Methodist Church belongs already to its customers. But the same was said of TSB, and that didn't stop Mrs Thatcher privatizing it. Once the Methodists have a stock market quote, the way is clear for a merger with elements from the Low Church.

Let's be positive. Existing opportunities for profit are shamefully unexploited. A rag-bag of postcard-kiosk and souvenir-stand enterprises could be put on a proper footing and emerge, free-standing, as Things Temporal Inc.

And what about Things Spiritual? I have in mind the sale of indulgences. In Luther's day the idea got a bad name, but why not inject a little more "transparency" into the way the sinner's money is translated into a priest's prayers? Is it not the theory that these can be of special efficacy — or why spend time and money training a priest? If he can help a customer towards salvation, it must make sense to charge directly.

Individual parishes could opt out: beacons of excellence. And from all of this the Church would emerge leaner and fitter. Managers would be given back the right to manage, and vicars to vic. Make no mistake, my friends. There is no such thing as a free wafer. Please tell Sid.

Ralf Dahrendorf urges the Government to stop interfering in the professions

Cosy cartels or guardians of liberty?

Few institutions are more uniquely British than the self-governing professions: lawyers and physicians, accountants and architects, and quite a few others. When I first went to the London School of Economics as a young postgraduate in 1952, my teacher, T.H. Marshall, helped me to acclimatize to Britain by suggesting that I read *Professional People*, by Roy Lewis and Angus Maude.

It warns (as one would expect, Maude already being a Conservative MP) against the encroachments of a secular and authoritarian state and insists that "independence in professional organization" is indispensable. This independence was also threatened, even at the time, so that Lewis and Maude found it necessary to emphasize that "it is the free, rather than the controlled, professions which set the standard and justify professional prestige."

Much has happened since. When I served on Lord Benson's

Royal Commission on the Legal Services in the late 1970s, the spectre feared by most of its members was of a "nationalized" legal profession, conveying monopoly and all Mrs Thatcher's governments have attacked the professions from a different angle.

Her ministers seemed to think that what is needed is "a 'marketability', partly to government and partly to 'the market'". Indeed, at times it looked as if they regarded the professions rather like the trade unions, and hoped to abolish their "closed shops" and "restrictive practices". The same language is still used about the Legal Services Bill now before Parliament.

Yet today one detects perhaps a little less zeal among Conservative reformers of the professions than in the heyday of trade union reform. One reason undoubtedly is that there are more professional people than trade unionists among Conservative MPs. But could there be another — the gradual discovery that tinkering with

autonomous professions has a high price in the quality of service, the cost, and ultimately in liberty?

Attacks on the professions are by and large popular. Many people feel powerless when faced with an expert in his surgery or chambers, and they suspect that they are going to be exploited rather than served. But one would have to be a rabid populist to attack self-governing professions on these grounds. After all, what are the alternatives?

On the Continent, the professions, like many other institutions, are closely controlled by the state. Lawyers and doctors and others take state examinations and are subject to detailed legislative afterwards. In Britain, the vogue is the "market". People are supposed to have choices, whether they know what to choose, why, or not. Who is to tell whether a solicitor is a more effective advocate than the barrister whom a familiar solicitor would choose?

One idea falls between the stools

of an overpowering state and an irrelevant market; it is the idea of service. The whole point of self-governing professions is to provide a service of high quality and reasonable cost. Neither government nor the market can guarantee such service. It requires effective self-control concerning access, training and retraining, discipline, cost and rules of practice.

It may be that some professions have become too complacent in these respects. Perhaps they need to be shaken up, as Lord Benson shook up his own, the accountancy profession, 20 years ago. But replacing service either by government bureaucracy, continental-style, or by a market-driven — which is bound to mean, money-driven — system British-style does not seem a very sensible idea.

One further point needs to be made. This is a time when much thought is rightly given to the needs of our post-communist neighbours in Europe. They need money, know-how, open arms and

minds, but perhaps most of all the experience of civil society. Edmund Burke liked that term, as did the authors of America's *Federalist Papers*. They knew that in the end liberty hinges neither on government nor on the market, but on the creative chaos of intermediate institutions.

Small businesses are as important in this respect as political parties and trade unions, but most of all, liberty needs uncensored media, autonomous universities, self-governing professions — that is, service institutions which protect people from the iron grip of government as well as the temptations of greed.

It is late in the day to make this point in defence of the British professions; but just in case there should be some second thoughts in relevant quarters, it may be worth reminding those who are prepared to entertain them that there is more to life than the state and the market.

The author is Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford.

Britain's complicity in a chronicle of shame

Bernard Levin recounts officialdom's long refusal to acknowledge the facts of the Katyn massacre



Leaving aside the thing itself, together with the cover-up by successive British governments (including the present one), the Katyn massacre has brought out, in the last few days, some extraordinary attitudes.

First, there is a distinct note of commendation, even of admiration, for Gorbachev, though considering that he has certainly known the full truth since at least 1970, and probably longer, the cowardice and dishonesty with which he framed his admission of Soviet guilt made the whole shameful business more shameful still. "Just recently", he began,

"Soviet archive workers and historians discovered some documents concerning Polish servicemen who were kept in the... cause by the NKVD security police... The discovered archival material puts direct responsibility for the atrocities in the Katyn forest on Beria and Merkulov, and their henchmen..."

What hope is there that Gorbachev will or can lead the Soviet Union into decency and truth when he puts his authority to a statement concerning events so momentous, so terrible and so long known about in every detail, and then allows it to begin with a lie like "just recently"?

In addition, there are people who still clearly needed Gorbachev to say it before they would believe it. The nature of fellow-travelling has changed somewhat, but the thing itself is very far from dead, and in its most soft-bellied modern form, it is as widespread as ever, as you will know if you saw the recent letter to *The Guardian* by George Foulkes, MP. Labour spokesman on foreign affairs, who was beside himself with indignation because American television is planning to beam the truth — albeit jammed — into the Wonderful Democratic Republic of Gallant Little Cuba.

Then there was Jaruzelski, under whose Soviet satrapy any Pole who dared to mention the word Katyn would have been thrown into prison, where he would be lucky to survive the beatings. There he was, parading his venality at the ceremony of remembrance, for all the world as though he would not have killed the Polish officers himself if his owners in the Kremlin had told him to.

Above — all, though, there is complete silence, not just an absence of apology, from those involved in the conspiracy to prevent the Polish community in

Britain, together with their British friends, from erecting a suitable memorial, in central London, to the murdered soldiers.

When the idea was first mooted, in the 1970s, there was already a possible doubt left about the identity of the murderers: the British government had had sufficient evidence since 1943, and the full proof of Soviet guilt since 1952. (It had been widely known before the end of the war, but there was a reasonable argument against disclosure while the Soviet Union was fighting our common enemy; even the Poles then agreed to be silent.) There was a bad moment during the Nuremberg trials when the Russians suggested that the Katyn massacre should be included in the indictment against the Nazis, but they were persuaded by the colluding West to drop the idea; after all, the defence would, in blowing the case to pieces, inevitably put the blame where it truly belonged.

From that day to this, the Foreign Office, giving off each time a stink of appeasement that could make a hippopotamus retch

half a mile upwind, has persuaded minister after minister to bluff, divert, blur, evade, dissemble — all for no purpose other than to ensure that the truth should not be publicly told. I have not the smallest doubt that the FCO is at this moment urging the Foreign Secretary to say nothing on the subject; after all, Kaganovich, the very last of Stalin's closest entourage, is still alive at the age of 98, and he might be greatly offended.

But that is the story of the cover-up. The story of the memorial is another matter.

A site had been offered by the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and the monument, a simple tapering obelisk, was approved. For a time, it seemed that the memorial would be built without opposition, until somebody noticed that it was to have the date of the massacre, 1940, on it. This particular date was exceptional, because the killings had taken place in 1940, they could not have been done by the Germans, who were not in control of the area at the time.

The leader of Kensington and

Chelsea Council was Sir Maibly Crofton, and he was staunch for the memorial and for the truth. Unfortunately, the proposed site was a disused Church of England burial-ground, so although the council had given permission, the Church had the final say. And its final say was a refusal. The Church of England has done many fine things, and a good few bad ones, but in the latter category that refusal must figure very high on the list. (The final decision would have been the responsibility of the then Bishop of London, Gerald Ellison. No one could call him a bad man; but the Church has a third posture — unwillingness to face difficult decisions. He is still alive and, I am glad to learn, well; possibly he could organize a general act of contrition and repentance among the survivors of that lamentable affair.)

There was, however, more to come; much more. Banned from central London by a craven church, the organizers found an alternative site at Gunnersbury, in west London. This was also a burial site, but it was in a curiously

eccumenical limbo, where the deceased of all religions could be interred. The Church of England therefore had no power to ban the monument, so the project went ahead.

The Foreign Office, however, was not going to give up without handing over the hot potato to its Department of Dirty Tricks, and the department rose to the occasion. To stop the erection of the memorial, date and all, was beyond its power, but it set itself, as far as it could, to ruin the consecration, which took place in September 1976.

The Labour government was easily persuaded (in those days its parliamentary ranks were still awash with full-blooded Soviet sympathizers), and the Grand Coup took the form of persuading the Minister of Defence, Roy Mason, who had nothing at all of the fellow-traveller in him, to forbid any serving officer to go there in uniform, on pain of court martial. (He even refused permission for an army band to play at the ceremony.) All that remained was to ensure that, one by one, those who could have been expected to be there *ex officio* would stay at home.

Lord Carver, Chief of the General Staff, stayed away; the British Legion was warned off and surrendered, but was ultimately forced to attend by an uprising of its flag-sellers; the War Graves Commission was nobbled; the Diplomatic Corps were advised to ignore the event. Despite all that, there was a huge throng of Poles and their friends; I was there, and a wonderfully stirring occasion it was, made the more so by the defeat of the dishonesty and cowardice that had striven to prevent it happening.

It is a shameful tale, not least because those who were responsible for it will not admit to the shame, or even feel it. But assuredly the last word on this story of inexcusable politeness, long dead but still alive, had to go to the Foreign Office, and assuredly that word, when spoken, was entirely in character.

When Gorbachev's wretched attempt at the truth was put out, the Foreign Office responded with words so brazen and so false that his, by comparison, shone like honour. These were the words: "We have long called for everyone to be open about this incident. We therefore warmly welcome the revelations from Moscow."

Trafalgar looks the other way

Mr straw in the political wind? Trafalgar House, which heads the Eurorail consortium and is one of Mrs Thatcher's favourite companies, is lavishing hospitality on Labour's shadow transport team. It fears that the talks on the £3.5 billion Channel tunnel rail link will drag on until the next election, and is covering its bets should Labour win. But by flying former ship's steward John Prescott and his deputy, Peter Snape, to France for a 24-hour "fact-finding mission", Trafalgar's chairman, Sir Nigel Brookes, is taking a gamble. Prescott says that at this stage he has no intention of endorsing the Trafalgar plan, which is backed by British Rail. "I believe there are a number of other options which the Government must consider. I am far from convinced that Trafalgar's is the right one." Prescott and Snape will stay at a hotel in Paris and be entertained at a country chateau. They have no qualms about accepting such hospitality, regarding it, no doubt, as a partial redressing of the balance. Trafalgar House is one of the largest donors to Tory party funds, giving £40,000 to its 1987 election campaign.

Home service

Stephen Fry, who last night brought P.G. Wodehouse's *Jeeves back to the television screen* after a 25-year absence, can also be seen on stage at the Aldwych, in Michael Frayn's *Look Back*. Just over the road is Bush House, home of the BBC

World Service — which Fry can thank for the cultured tones essential for Bertie Wooster's gentlemanly demeanour. He confesses that as a child he was totally incomprehensible, and his parents employed "a batty old woman" to give him elocution lessons. They made no difference, but help was at hand. "In my teens I never slept well, so in the early hours of the morning I would tune in to the World Service. Its newscasters and presenters speak slowly and deliberately, in upper-crust tones, for the benefit of people whose English might not be perfect and who are listening on crackling shortwave thousands of miles away. I modelled my voice on theirs." Lord Reith would be proud — though not of the fact that the plummy tones of this BBC star pupil are now heard on ITV.

Gran delusion

Like their predecessors ever since Baden-Powell, the 1,000 Queen's Scouts assembled at Windsor yesterday live by the motto "Be prepared". Across the Atlantic, the need today seems greater than ever. The new manual for American scouts warns that the traditional practice of escorting old ladies across the road may be fraught with danger. Such people may not be innocent grannies at all but child-molesters in disguise — so be ever more prepared. The handbook also contains advice on "Aids and other venereal diseases spread by sexual contact", suggesting that "abstinence until marriage is a very wise course of action". But some modern scouting practice would warn Baden-Powell's heart. Winning the scouts' stamp-



DIARY

collecting badge still "helps you to become a better citizen".

Pit stop

Claudio Desderi, the operatic baritone renowned for his unflinching enthusiasm, has been throwing himself into rehearsals for the Royal Opera House's new production of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with his usual gusto. Unfortunately, during a particularly flamboyant flourish with a cape and cane at the final dress rehearsal at the weekend, he threw himself a little too hard, and landed in the orchestra pit. Happily, Desderi survived the mishap, which hugely entertained the invited audience. But there are no plans for a repeat performance when the comic version of the Cinderella tale opens at Covent Garden tomorrow night.

Deficit diet

At this time of high inflation and record mortgage rates, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, John Major, is setting the right example with a little personal belt-tightening. Since his first budget last month he has been restricting the otherwise un-

lustrous Treasury canteen, unlike his predecessor, Nigel Lawson, who never set foot in the place. More to the point, he has been seen to reduce his previous three courses to two, and is wont to discuss football, rather than the PSBR, over lunch with staff.

Matesmanship

Washington is about to announce the first official visit to London of T. Danforth Quayle, the man who is just a heartbeat away from the most important job in the world. The American Vice-president is to visit Europe next month as part of the celebrations of the centenary of the birth of Dwight Eisenhower and will call on the Prime Minister at Downing Street. He will thus retrospectively fulfil the dubious claim he made during the presidential election campaign of "knowing" Mrs Thatcher.

Out of the dark

Half a century on, it can be revealed how the legendary Group Captain John "Cat's Eyes" Cunningham got his nickname. The Battle of Britain hero finally decided that national security would no longer be threatened by revealing the secret when he visited the new exhibition commemorating the nation's finest hour at the RAF Museum in Hendon, north London. The nickname was, in fact, a code dreamed up to hide the fact that Cunningham's flight, in the Middlesex Squadron, was the only one in the Battle of Britain to carry airborne radar. The Germans also had radar but had not found a way of installing it in aircraft, and the British advantage

helped win the day. "We were told not to breathe a word about it," says Cunningham. "They gave me this 'Cat's Eyes' name and told us to put it about that we were able to spot the Luftwaffe planes so quickly because of the extraordinary eyesight of one pilot." The nickname also contributed to another myth. Cunningham says that pilots flying at night did not improve their vision by eating raw carrots. "That was something dreamed up by the Ministry of Food to persuade children to eat them for the vitamins because there were no oranges around." Clearly Goebbels did not hold all the propaganda aces.

Back in harmony

Relations between the Department of the Environment and its Irish counterpart were not at their warmest after the recent North Sea conference in Holland, at which Dublin's environment minister, Padraig Flynn, added to the tide of Scandinavian criticism engulfing Chris Patten, the Secretary of State, with a sudden renewed demand for the closure of the British Nuclear Fuels plant at Sellafield. However, a friendlier atmosphere again prevails following the EC environment ministers' meeting at Ashford Castle in County Mayo over the weekend. The exuberant Flynn decided to end the final reception by singing *Danny Boy* and *The Mountains of Mourne* but was short of a pianist. David Trippier, Patten's deputy, and in his spare time a classical pianist with a touch of Hoagy Carmichael, saw the opportunity to mend fences and offered his services. The resulting Anglo-Irish accord brought the house down.



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LESSONS FOR PRETORIA

Anybody who thinks that the path of constitutional change in South Africa is easy should heed events this past weekend in Nigeria. As the tribal and religious tensions that have long plagued that land come to the surface, conflict is resolved not by the ballot but by the gun. However, relieved some Nigerians may be that President Babangida has been given more time to prove his reformist credentials, Nigeria is no democracy.

This might be just another epitaph on an unhappy phase of post-imperial liberalism — were the same story not just now in danger of being repeated to the south. Claims that conflict in South Africa can be simply resolved by "one man, one vote in a unitary state", much heard from the Labour Party last week, are merely silly. Outsiders should beware of prescribing structures which may lead only to poverty, unfreedom and bloodshed.

Last week's thoughts on constitutional change in South Africa — from President F.W. de Klerk in Cape Town and from his Minister of Constitutional Development, Dr. Gerrit Viljoen, in an interview with *The Times* in London — were more an opening shot in advance of negotiations than a blueprint. Yet despite their caution, understandable amid the hysteria of Mr Nelson Mandela's release, some method is emerging in Mr de Klerk's response to his central dilemma: how to secure the protection of minorities (of all races) without frustrating the will of the majority (also possibly a multi-racial one).

South African constitution-builders have long been fascinated by geography. Mr de Klerk and Dr Viljoen appear to envisage a lower house, elected perhaps through proportional representation on a common voters' roll, but with its powers curtailed by an upper house representing both group and regional interests. This reflects a growing interest in the once scorned "Kwa-Natal" proposal. The United States Senate, in which each state of the Union has equal representation regardless of size or population, is also seen as a useful exemplar for a South African upper house.

A vision of cross-party alliances coalescing around political principles and goals, rather than race or colour, reveals a debt to Namibia and the evolution of its main opposition party, the DTA. A charter of human rights would reduce the need for minorities to seek

constitutional protection within their groups. Yet even here, "group rights and safeguards" has about it an ominous ring of old apartheid. Geography cannot protect white rule.

All we have so far is the clearest commitment yet to the ending of apartheid: Mr de Klerk's statement to Parliament that there could be no peace in South Africa while discrimination remained in statute. He signalled the demise of the remaining elements of the colour-coded apartheid state: the Group Areas, Land and Separate Amenities Acts and the eventual replacement of the Population Registration Act. Group membership will no longer be prescribed by statute — though by what is not clear. In a further attempt to detach the protection of minorities from the "albatross of apartheid", Mr de Klerk insisted that the emphasis would in future fall on the creation of a common nationhood.

There remains a vast gulf between what the South African Government seems likely to put on the table once real negotiations begin, and the African National Congress's blueprint for the end of minority rule, as contained in last year's Harare declaration. The ANC's overseas lobby — which continues to see in South Africa a morality play in which evil must be punished for good to triumph — will urge Mr Mandela and his advisers to avoid discussing any formula which falls short of a straight transfer of power to a nationwide black majority. Listening to these siren voices, the ANC will be sorely tempted to foreclose on negotiations almost before they begin.

Yet despite its enervating passion for collective leadership, the ANC is not unfamiliar with compromise. In the last nine months, Mr Mandela made three concessions in order to prise open his prison doors and give Mr de Klerk the courage to go as far as he has done. Mr Mandela committed himself to the search for a peaceful solution, he expressed understanding of the white minority's need for statutory protection and — most important — he acknowledged Mr de Klerk's integrity.

There is only one place where Mr Mandela can put that integrity and his own statesmanship to the test. It is not at Wembley Stadium, nor in the chancelleries of the world, but at the negotiating table in South Africa. Whether the ANC will let him is still open to doubt. If not, Mr de Klerk's flexibility may be short-lived.

TWO CHEERS FOR LABOUR

Labour's fiasco in the Commons last week over Hong Kong revealed the party's continued devastating uncertainty over foreign policy. This week Mr Neil Kinnock will submit to his National Executive (NEC) a plan designed to make up for the policy aversion bred in him and the Shadow Cabinet by the long war of attrition against his left-wing. He proposes to set up a "National Policy Council" (NPC) as the consummation of his long effort to turn the party into a rational policy-making machine which could help, not hinder, the election and functioning in office of a Labour government.

The creation of the NPC is one aspect of what would amount to a new party constitution. A representative body of some 170 Labour MPs, party activists and trade unionists, it would vote at its quarterly meetings on policies formulated by seven standing commissions of experts. This would be part of a larger master plan, aimed at securing a reduction in the trade union block vote at the Labour Party conference, a compulsory one member one vote procedure for all constituency delegates, and a stronger role for the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP).

All this is another chapter in the saga of Mr Kinnock's ambition to rid his prospective cabinet (and Shadow Cabinet) of the incubus from an annual conference frequently (though by no means always) dominated by the left. Previous party leaders were wary of confronting this central issue of the party's constitution, with catastrophic results. Two remaining questions require answers.

First, does Mr Kinnock see the NPC as a genuinely independent organ inside the party, or merely as a rubber stamp for the party leader and a compliant NEC? If the former, it is not immediately clear how power might accrue to a body that would meet only four times a year and may be too large to acquire any *esprit de corps*. The new Council may fail to establish itself as a power base in its own right. If the latter, then that great gathering of party interests, the annual conference, will surely

find a way of crucifying Mr Kinnock and his colleagues. Labour is a party of interests *par excellence*, as any student of its performance in local government knows. The trade unions, political clubs and city council mafias will not easily be brushed aside.

Second, does the announcement of this great reform of the Labour Party's policy-making procedure mark the historic transition from a phase in which the polishing of the party's image took precedence over the creative (but necessarily divisive) hammering out of policies? That phase, closely associated with Mr Kinnock's public relations adviser, Mr Peter Mandelson, has carried Labour to unexpected heights of popularity. The medium not the message has never been more forcefully pursued, under the formula: governments lose elections, oppositions do not win them.

From now on the going may become rougher for this approach. An uneasiness that Mr Kinnock might have peaked too soon has been compounded by an acute sensitivity to the charge that, having dumped so much ideology during the late 1980s, Labour now confronts the 1990s with a party political profile that is distinctive only in its artful fuzziness. Since the new constitution is not due to be implemented until the conference after the next general election — for well over two years, that is — Labour must look elsewhere for a more extensive repertoire of policies. This timetable seems too leisurely.

In the meantime, the electorate must needs employ the technique of negative theology: seeking a mystical path to the comprehension of the Almighty by defining God in terms of that which He is not. The Labour leadership may say only what it is against, this side of an election; but that policy failed in 1987. People do not like being left to guess the policies of the party to which they entrust their votes. Mr Kinnock deserves support for his new constitution: on condition that he lets the country examine the purposes to which he would put his augmented power.

THE MARATHON MEN

The British are a nation of sporting entrepreneurs. They may no longer win at Wimbledon or Lord's or sweep the board at Henley or Wembley. These remain, however, theatres of greatness whose international status is unique. At organizing triumphant occasions for foreigners, Britain leads the field in every major sport.

To this calendar of events, we can now add another. Ten years on, the London Marathon has become the biggest, the best and most popular of its kind anywhere. Before the letters start pouring south from Glasgow, the victory of a Scot, Alister Hutton, should be acknowledged. But an Italian came second, a Spaniard third, and the first three women home were Polish and American. There is pride in this internationalism.

What makes the success of the marathon so spectacular is that it has been secured within a decade. Henley, Wimbledon, Twickenham *et al* are famous partly because they were the first. They were founded in that imperial afternoon when the world looked to this country for a lead. They all had a comfortable start.

The London Marathon began life as a copy of New York's, but has now clearly overhauled its model both in size and, so the athletes say, organization. Like the Japanese, we have adopted and improved on the inventions of others. The course's reputation for fast times has encouraged a growing number of other nations (including the Soviet Union) to use it

as a team selection test. Exactly why 25,500 people should want to run 26 miles on Sunday morning, when a chilly wind is whipping up the Thames and the rain is slanting steadily over Docklands, is a matter on which others may speculate. April must seem to them, the cruellest month. But although the entry was raised again this year, a further 27,000 applicants were turned down.

The prize money might have attracted those with a perceived chance of winning some. Marathon runners have a short life at the top and are entitled to some brief recompense for their glory. The millions earned for charity clearly constitute a further worthy motive for partaking. For others, no doubt, fame (however transitory) was the spur — as they ran backwards, bore umbrellas, dressed up as lions or Paddington Bear, to process in this great carnival of London. For others still, the marathon remains a monument to the oldest and noblest of sporting motives: not winning but playing. The atmosphere was created on the first race, when Dick Beardsley of the USA and Inge Simonsen of Norway joined hands to win together.

As time goes on, the same spirit of jovial self-sacrifice may not prevail. None the less, the race remains an ode to joy, free from malice or hubris or evidence of greed. As the marathon annually grows in sporting stature, it must preserve this basic innocence, the innocence of sport's happiest outdoor theatre.

Wide range of options on EMU

From the Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons

Sir, Tim Congdon (article, April 17) is wrong to assert that politicians like Michael Heseltine and myself — the two he mentions by name — "have been particularly sloppy with the vocabulary of EMU... failing to ask themselves exactly what EMU is before they assume that it cannot be stopped".

The whole notion of a pre-defined EMU (European Monetary Union) outcome — which Mr Congdon assumes there is or must be — lies at the root of this misunderstanding. EMU has been an aspiration, not a precisely defined goal, for many years. It remains so today, notwithstanding the Delors report (only the first stage of whose three-stage prescription has been endorsed by the European Council).

Nor is there anything special about the way in which I or others speak of EMU. Successive governments of the UK, Labour and Conservative alike, have committed themselves, on many occasions since 1973, to a common objective: "progressive realisation of economic and monetary union". That commitment was reiterated most recently and clearly at the Madrid European Council last June. It is also contained in the Single European Act.

What starts on July 1, 1990, is a process towards an EMU outcome which could take one of many forms. There is a huge debate right now about precisely what form that might be. Strangely, Mr Congdon does not allude to this. Instead he makes one very specific, maximalist definition for granted — that set out in Delors stage three — which he cites in abbreviated form.

There is, however, no inevitability whatsoever about that particular model — of a common currency administered by a single central bank controlling both monetary policy and national budget deficits — being the one that finally emerges as the agreed policy of the 12 member states.

Short of Delors stage three, there is a whole span of possible

options and intermediate stages from which European leaders might choose. These range from competitive currencies without fixed exchange rates to a system of irrevocably fixed exchange rates backed by a common monetary policy, but without the compulsory adoption of a common currency.

Even the Delors report (paragraph 23) admits that a single currency is not a necessary condition of EMU, believing it to be desirable for political as well as economic reasons. In this, it echoes the Werner report of 1970.

Mr Congdon also describes a number of consequences for contracts and accounting of compulsory replacing national currencies by the ecu (European currency unit). He says these would follow from the logic of what he calls the "Howe-Heseltine" position, which requires the pound to "disappear in the end".

I do not have the faintest idea where Mr Congdon has found me advocating the enforced displacement of the pound by the ecu, as this is simply not my position. It is certainly not essential to the establishment of EMU, except in the specific form proposed in stage three of the Delors report, which I do not support.

I greatly regret having to take issue with Mr Congdon's article because I have always regarded his contribution to the discussion of monetary policy as well-informed and robust. When he touches on matters European, however, I fear that an instinctive fear of some "Euro-political establishment", as he calls it, clouds his better judgement.

In this context it is a pity that he does not use his considerable influence to flag up the long-range benefits that will flow from ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) entry in promoting and sustaining monetary discipline — about which he rightly cares — instead of throwing against imaginary windmills on EMU.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY HOWE,
House of Commons,
April 20.

Conveyancing move

From the Chairman of the Society of Licensed Conveyancers

Sir, Commenting on the Courts and Legal Services Bill, your second leader (April 19) states that one of the effects of the proposed legislation will be that "solicitors will lose their monopoly of conveyancing".

As a matter of record, this monopoly was lost some three years ago, following issue of the first licences to licensed conveyancers in May, 1987, under the terms of the Administration of Justice Act 1965, thereby creating the separate profession of licensed conveyancer specifically to provide direct competition for solicitors.

As a result of this Act, fierce competition between solicitors and licensed conveyancers has

ensued. Home-buyers and sellers in England and Wales have consequently seen conveyancing fees fall in both cash and in real terms to become the lowest in Europe.

The provision in the Courts and Legal Services Bill to allow big financial institutions to offer conveyancing services is therefore unnecessary. Worse still, the prospect of mortgage lenders providing conveyancing services to their own borrowers puts the consumer at considerable risk, although the risk will only be apparent to the minority of more enlightened consumers who are not persuaded by the apparent convenience of one-stop shopping.

Yours faithfully,
N. E. EWERT EVANS, Chairman,
The Society of Licensed Conveyancers,
55 Church Road,
Croydon, Surrey.

Timing of exams

From the Principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College

Sir, The Chairman of the Joint Council for the GCSE (April 16), in defending the timing of the GCSE examinations for 1990, points out that the examinations have started early in previous years. This is true but never before have so many major subject papers been before the spring Bank holiday.

He also states that the concern of the examining group is to avoid an over-concentration of the examinations during any part of the timetable; but in practice most children will take the majority of their papers during the two weeks before, and the week after, the holiday week. The concentration of examinations has merely moved.

Glad he was there

From the Director of the National Deaf Children's Society

Sir, In your obituary of Lord Bruce-Gardyne (April 16) you referred to his deafness. In fact, Jock Bruce-Gardyne had spent many years supporting deaf children and, in particular, the National Deaf Children's Society, first as a member of our management committee then as a vice-president. He was generous of his time, advice and contacts.

In 1986 he chaired our annual general meeting, coming straight from the horrors of the Brighton bombing. He opened with the sentence: "If I say to you how glad I am to be here, you will know what I mean".

We were always glad he was there and are indeed sad that he is no longer here to continue his work for deaf children. Yours faithfully,
HARRY CAYTON, Director,
The National Deaf Children's Society,
45 Hereford Road, W2,
April 19.

National Anthem

From Mr Paul L. D. Hickson

Sir, Your report (April 9) on the search by the Liturgical Commission of the Church of England for a less belligerent second verse for the National Anthem caused my amusement amongst my family.

William Edward Hickson, who wrote such a verse, was one of our ancestors, and was indeed a bootmaker by profession. But his boot and shoe business made much of its money from the manufacture of military footwear,

selling to several other European countries, and including then current combatants.

What is more, our family had close ties by marriage with the Prussian nobility, and in the 1870s (some years after the verse was penned) the business became the subject of questions in the House.

Members of the Commons felt concerned that an English footwear manufacturer with family ties in Prussia should have been supplying boots of very inferior quality to the French forces, made

from what I can best describe as "Victorian cardboard". As history records, the Prussians were the victors.

To form "One family, the wide world o'er" is a fine sentiment — but if my antecedent's commercial ambitions had been involved, then I fear that even more than now would be going barefoot.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL L. D. HICKSON,
Grapevine Cottage,
94 Waterdell Lane,
Cressmoor,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Water metering

From Mr P. I. Guinness

Sir, I have no doubt that unless the water companies introduce "means-tested" water charges a major part of the population will be forced to start to save money on water once metering is generally introduced. They will simply stop washing their hands in running water, stop using showers, take baths less frequently, put bricks into their loo-cisterns, reduce their washing machine time etc.; in short, the present level of personal and general hygiene will take a dive. The result of 100 years of health education will go down the drain, so to speak.

Sir, I do hope that you may share my memory of not so long ago when water was charged as part of our rates and we drank clear, pleasantly-tasting tap water and not the bottled stuff imported from France.

Yours sincerely,
P. I. GUINNESS,
24 Ovington Street, SW3,
April 16.

From what I can best describe as "Victorian cardboard". As history records, the Prussians were the victors.

To form "One family, the wide world o'er" is a fine sentiment — but if my antecedent's commercial ambitions had been involved, then I fear that even more than now would be going barefoot.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL L. D. HICKSON,
Grapevine Cottage,
94 Waterdell Lane,
Cressmoor,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Moral criteria on embryo research

From the Archbishop of Westminster and others

Sir, There is a clear moral principle at stake on the issue of destructive embryo experimentation now before Parliament. It is our conviction that fundamental moral criteria are absolute and cannot depend on the personal preferences of individuals.

Moral pluralism, and the consequent sense which many have that morality is ultimately a matter of subjective preference, make our society particularly vulnerable to the influence of utilitarian proposals as the only basis of public policy. The recent debate in your columns and elsewhere on the issue of embryo experimentation has exposed this most clearly.

There is a continuing debate over whether at its earliest stages the embryo has the essential characteristics of a human individual. From the beginning of the fertilisation process, however, the embryo is new human life. This fact alone should govern its status, dignity and rights under the law.

It is tempting to assume that in the question of destructive embryo experimentation and screening the solution is to adopt that policy which will produce the greatest benefits. Yet if these benefits can only be obtained by destroying human lives, such a policy must be wholly unacceptable. We cannot justifiably do wrong even for a right reason or a noble cause.

Justice requires that an equality of respect be given to all human life as such, and not merely in virtue of its characteristics, attributes or achievements. It is precisely this principle which underpins the protection which should be extended by the law to all. If the moral principle of respect for human life is reduced to the level of a subjective preference, we further erode the

PR in Ireland

From Dr Des Keenan

Sir, As an example of political naivety Mr Jeremy Thorpe's allusions to PR (proportional representation) in the Irish Republic (April 17) take some beating.

The Irish Free State, like the Russian Soviet Republic, was set up with the avowed aim of totally sweeping away the previous regime, and making it impossible for it ever to revive. There never has been in the Irish Republic a party to represent Protestant Unionists. Such a party could survive under a "list system" but not under the "single transferable vote".

Protestantism has rarely been made an overt issue, and some Protestants did join the Republican parties, just as some Jews joined the Bolsheviks. That meant spurning their own traditions, acquiescing in the indoctrination of their children, the forcible

Dublin revealed

From Mr Anthony J. Clarke

Sir, Your Diary columnist (April 18) may have been a little hasty in chiding Aer Lingus for claiming that it took James Joyce a lifetime to discover Dublin. To "discover" in its original sense is to lay bare, expose to view, remove the cover from. *The Shorter Oxford Dictionary* gives seven different meanings of the word before it comes to "obtain sight or knowledge of for the first time".

Joyce did indeed spend close on 40 years "discovering" Dublin for us, revealing its identity, exhibiting, disclosing and displaying it for us (to quote some of the other meanings given); a working lifetime which produced some of the most inspired novels in the English language. Many Irish still use the word in its original (1450 *et seq.*) sense, as well as that of coming upon for the first time.

Yours respectfully,
ANTHONY J. CLARKE,
8 Church Road,
East Molesey, Surrey,
April 18.

Rate for the job

From Mr P. J. R. Everidge

Sir, Mr Ramsden (April 13) is by no means the first person to confuse two quite different figures.

The rate per hour charged by professional firms to their clients reflects the total cost to the firm of that particular partner or employee, per hour of labour. This includes not only the salary of the person concerned, but also that of his or her secretary and a proper proportion of the rent, rates, electricity, heating, stationery, equipment, maintenance, decoration and the salaries of administrative staff.

This figure has no direct relationship whatever to the salary paid to the member of staff in question, which is never calculated on an hourly basis but on an annual one.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. R. EVERIDGE,
22 Wigmore Place, W1,
April 17.

From what I can best describe as "Victorian cardboard". As history records, the Prussians were the victors.

To form "One family, the wide world o'er" is a fine sentiment — but if my antecedent's commercial ambitions had been involved, then I fear that even more than now would be going barefoot.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL L. D. HICKSON,
Grapevine Cottage,
94 Waterdell Lane,
Cressmoor,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

foundations of our British system of justice.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL HUME,
DEREK WORLOCK
(Liverpool),
MICHAEL BOWEN
(Southwark),
MAURICE COUVE
de MURVILLE
(Birmingham).

JOHN ALOYSIUS WARD
(Cardiff),
Archbishop's House,
Westminster, SW1.

From Dr W. M. O. Moore
Sir, Now that scientists have shown it is practical to determine the sex of a human embryo within three days of fertilisation (report, April 19), members of Parliament need to reflect on its implications as they debate the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill.

Most expectant women have definite wishes about what sex they want the baby to be. It is a common finding of research on parents' sex preference that boys are more popular than girls. A major study on the sociology of pregnancy of first-time mothers in Britain revealed a two-to-one wish for a boy.

Those who want to ensure their choice of a boy could now opt for creation of their children in the laboratory. After identifying the sex of the embryos, males would be placed in the womb and females would either be discarded or made available for destructive experimentation.

The moral question that has to be faced by Parliament is how the remaining female embryos, each with its unique genetic blueprint and the capacity to develop fully to human maturity, ought to be treated. The decision is vital for all of us.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. O. MOORE
(Consultant obstetrician),
St Mary's Hospital,
Manchester 13.

teaching of the Irish language, and accepting a version of Irish history in which Protestants were blamed for everything.

It meant too accepting a political system in which any connection with the old regime or service in the British armed forces or colonial administrations, for example, brought automatic exclusion from all public jobs, housing, or contracts.

Mr Thorpe apparently fails to recognise the institutionalised nature of this gerrymandering. Whether, in an era of *glasnost*, Unionist parties will again flourish in the Irish Republic is doubtful; but a little "openness" about how Irish political parties actually kept power for themselves would be welcome.

Yours sincerely,
DES KEENAN,
129 Beekman Walk,
Chalk Hill Road,
Wembley Park, Middlesex.

New Tube lines

From Mr Derek Allen

Sir, Your front-page item today (April 19) on the proposed new Underground lines surely overstates the case in saying that these improvements "would help to compensate for the historical dearth of Underground lines in south London".

Since the abandonment of the Jubilee line extension as far as Lewisham, nothing has been done for south-east London, always the poor relation of the Underground system. This used to be blamed on subsoil conditions, but Channel tunnel link plans would seem to remove that excuse.

Could it be that the real reason, one I have accepted since school days, is that the Underground map needs an empty corner for the key?

Yours faithfully,
DEREK ALLEN,
25 St Margaret's Road, SE4.

From Mr N. G. Walker

Sir, Surely there can be no doubt that the BR Crossrail Tube line is the better of the two options presently being examined by Mr Parkinson? Choosing the alternative Chelsea-Hackney London Underground route will simply mean the addition to the Tube network of more stations at which the escalators do not work.

Yours faithfully,
N. G. WALKER,
4 Thame Road, Haddenham,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
April 19.

Segregated eating

From Mr Patrick Arbuthnot

Sir, Having started my adult life as a student with the then de Havilland Company at Hatfield, I can vouch for the existence of five eating places (report, April 19). There were, however, only four levels — two works canteens for hourly-paid shop-floor workers, a staff canteen for weekly-paid staff, the senior staff restaurant for monthly-paid staff and the management club.

The quality of food and service improved with status. I will remember in the works canteens advertising Spotted Dick while the staff canteen upstairs called it Dalmatian pudding.

Yours faithfully,
P. S. F. ARBUTHNOT,
1 Ivy Cottage,
45 Plantation Road,
Amersham, Buckinghamshire,
April 19.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01753) 5846.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 22: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended luncheon followed by the Four Home Unions rugby match against the Rest of Europe at Twickenham.
Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

April 21: Today is the sixty-fourth Anniversary of the Birth of The Queen.
Lady Gabriella Windsor is nine today.
Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales has agreed to be patron of the Leprosy Mission in England and Wales.

Birthdays today

Mr M.A. Anson, former chairman, Wessex Water Authority, 66; Mrs Shirley Temple Black, former actress and American diplomat, 62; the Most Rev Michael Bower, Archbishop of Southwark, 60; Lord Carey, 55; Mr Bill Cotton, former managing director, BBC Television, 62; Mr Antony Craxton, television producer, 72; Mr J.P. Donlevy, author, 64; Sir Dairmuid Downs, automotive engineer, 68; Lady Dudley, 83; the Hon Victoria Glendinning, author, 53; Sir Arnold Hall, former chairman, Hawker Siddeley Group, 75; Mr James Kirkup, travel writer, novelist and playwright, 77; Dr R.M. Laws, master, St Edmund's College, Cambridge, 64; Colonel Sir Andrew Martin, former Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, 76; Sir Thomas Padmore, civil servant, 81; Sir Herbert Tevel, 82; Sir Eric Yarrow, chairman, Citydendale Bank, 70.

Service dinner

Wagon Club
Major-General W. Bates, President of the Wagon Club, presided at the annual dinner held on Saturday at the Royal Corps of Transport Headquarters Mess, Aldershot. Colonel A.E.W. Stormer and Lieutenant-Colonel M.R. Stevens were the principal guests.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, President and Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, will present the Benjamin Franklin Medal for 1989 at a reception at Windsor Castle at 6.00.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a "Topping-Out" ceremony for the fire damage restoration at Hampton Court Palace at 11.00.

Princess Alexandra will attend the St George's Day Gilbert and Sullivan Festival at the Festival Hall at 7.20 in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1564 (he died this day at Stratford, 1616); Joseph Mallord William Turner, London, 1775; James B. MacGregor, 1st Viscount of MacGregor, 1857-61; Cove Gap, Pennsylvania, 1791; Max Planck, physicist, Kiel, 1858; Edward Henry Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby of Megiddo, field marshal, Brackenhurst, Nottinghamshire, 1861; Lester Pearson, prime minister of Canada 1963-68, Nobel Peace laureate 1957, Toronto, 1897.

DEATHS: Boris Godunov, Tsar of Russia 1598-1605, Moscow, 1605; Miguel de Cervantes, Madrid, 1616; Henry Vaughan, poet, Llanstffraid, Dyfed, 1633; Andrew Baxter, philosopher, Edinburgh, 1758; Joseph Nollekens, sculptor, London, 1823; William Wordsworth, Poet Laureate 1843-50, Rydal Mount, Cumbria, 1850; Rupert Brooke, poet, 1897; on active service, Skryps, 1915; Jim Laker, cricketer, 1986; Otto Preminger, film director, 1986.

Today is the Feast of Saint George, patron saint of England and of Aragon and Portugal.

Garrick Club

The members of the Garrick Club held their Annual Dinner on Sunday, April 22. Mr. Harold French, who celebrates his 90th birthday today, was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Donald Sinden, CBE, proposed the toast and Mr. Nunc Wilcox presided.

Air Vice-Marshal Basil Lock

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Air Vice-Marshal Basil Lock will be held on Thursday May 31, 1990 at noon in St Clement Danes.

Fifth Fusiliers

St George's Day greetings to all surviving Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and in proud memory of all who wore the red and white rose on this day in or out of action in over 300 years of dedicated service to Crown and country. "Quo Fata Vocant".

Schools' news

Bedford School
The Summer Term begins today with 1,145 boys in the School. Confirmation will be conducted by the Rt. Revd. D.J. Farmborough, Bishop of Bedford, on May 6. The Service is a commemoration of Founders and Benefactors takes place at 11.00 am. on Sunday May 20 in the School Chapel, when the address will be given by the Revd. W.M. Brown, Head of Bedford School from 1955 to 1975. Old Bedfordians and Festival Week begins on Sunday June 24. Mr. and Mrs. F.M. Fletcher and Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Barlow will be at home to Old Bedfordians on Saturday June 30 at 12.00 pm. B.R.F. Shorten is Head of School and Captain of Boats and R.W.H. Smith is Captain of Cricket.

Benenden School
Term starts today at Benenden School. Seniors' Sports will be held on May 19. Speaker of the Year, Susan Butler (Hemsted 1976). Speech Day will take place on July 7.

Cobham Hall
The Summer Term begins today. The new headmaster is Suzanne Fittley. Elder's Sports will be held at the school on Sat. April 18. Festival Day is on June 30 and term ends on Sunday July 1.

Harrogate Ladies' College
The Summer Term begins today with 400 girls. 106 in the Sixth Form. Katherine Roper is Head of School. The Choir will sing Evensong in York Minster on May 23. Commemoration Service for the founding of the school takes place on May 25, guest speaker will be the Bishop of Ripon. Sports and Open Days will be on June 22 with Prizes given in the evening. Guest speaker Mrs Judith Stamp. The Sixth Form Ball at the Hotel St. George is on June 29. Half-term is May 26-June 3 and term ends on July 7.

Keat College, Canterbury
The Summer Term starts today and ends on Saturday, July 7, which is also Speech Day. Elizabeth Pearson and Mimi Mitchell continue as Head Prefects and Simon Warley is Captain of Cricket. The Confirmation Service will be held in the School Chapel, on Friday, May 4.

Lancing College
Summer Term begins today. J.E. Hegan will be Captain of School. The Careers convention on Saturday, April 28, will be opened by Mr Graham Searle, Director of ISCO. Founder's Day is on Saturday, May 26, and is followed by Harrow May 31. Term ends on Friday, May 29. "OL Day" will be held at the College on Saturday, September 15.

Marlborough College
The Summer Term at Marlborough College begins today. Sarah Wan (Presbury) becomes Senior Prefect and Toby Osborn (Presbury) Captain of School. Open days for parents of girls wishing to enter the College in 1991 will be held on April 26 (13+ and 14+ entry). The Junior Schoolship examination will take place between May 7 and 9. Commemoration weekend will

be June 2 and 3, when the preacher at the Chapel service will be the Rt Rev Peter Walker. The Rugby match will be at Rugby on June 27 and 28. Exeat is from May 25 to May 30, and term ends on June 29.

Moulisford Preparatory School
The Summer Term begins at Moulisford Preparatory School today with 165 boys of whom 50 will be weekly boarders. Timothy Burn is head boy, Russell Perkins, captain of cricket and Darren Moore, captain of tennis. The Summer Ball will be held on Saturday, June 30, and Prize Giving will take place on Wednesday, July 4, when the guest of honour will be D.R.W. Silk, Warden of Radley College.

Pipers Corner School
The Summer Term begins today at Pipers Corner School, Great Kingshill, with 380 girls. Major Sixth Form Scholarships for the Autumn have been awarded to Caroline Artus and Davina Hansen. Parents' Day will be Saturday, July 7. Canon John Eastgate will preach. The principal guest and speaker will be a former pupil of the School, Miss Hilary Kay, of the "Antiques Road Show".

Royal Grammar School, Guildford
Trinity Term begins today and ends on July 12. Brian Ray is Captain of Cricket. The 1990 King's Lecture will be given on May 2, by Mr Wally Olins. Brigadier J.E. Elder, OBE, will inspect the CCF on May 10. The Old Guildfordian reunion will be at Bradstone Brook on June 10, when the annual Cricket Match versus the Headmaster's School takes place. The Drama and Music Festival begins on June 20. The Lanesborough Jubilee celebrations will include a thanksgiving service in the Cathedral on July 5, and a concert in Holy Trinity, on July 10.

St Dunstan's College, Summer Term
Summer Term begins on April 23 and ends on July 11, exeat being from May 28 to June 1. C.J. Winchester continues as Head of School; N. Middleton is Captain of Cricket and R.P.A. Nella is Captain of Swimming. The preacher at Commemoration at Southwark Cathedral on May 25 is the Very Rev. Dr. Wesley Carr, Dean of Bristol. Open Day and Old Dunstonian Day is July 7. The Preparatory Department's Concert is June 27 and the Summer Concert July 9. The 1st XI plays MCC on July 9.

There will be a supplementary entrance examination on May 17, further details of which are available from the Admissions Secretary at the College.

St Edmund's College, Ware, Herts.
Summer Term starts today and ends on July 1, 1990. E. Sideso is Captain of Cricket; N.P.R. Nieland and Rachel Burke are Captains of Athletics. Senior School Speech Day is on June 9, when Prizes will be distributed by Rt Rev David Konstant, Bishop of Leeds. His Lordship will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, June 10. The annual Cricket Fixture against MCC is on Tuesday, May 8. Junior School Speech Day is on Saturday, June 30.

Erté (Romain de Tiroff), one of the most famous stage and fashion designers of the 20th century, contributor to the *Folies-Bergère*, *Broadway*, *Hollywood*, and the popular *British theatre*, died in a Paris hospital aged 97 on April 21. He was born in St Petersburg on November 23, 1892.

LIVING to an active old age, Erté enjoyed in recent years a second round of success and fame as a result of the nostalgic revival of interest in the decorative arts of the 1920s and 1930s.

He was born in the St Petersburg Naval Academy, where his father, Admiral Tiroff, was Inspector. The Tiroffs, a noble family of Tartar origin, traditionally entered state service, a record destined to be broken by Romain.

Impressions of childhood remained influential throughout his life — the colourful richness of the Orthodox Church, performances at the Imperial Theatres, the famous art exhibitions organised by Diaghilev and even a fashion display in St Petersburg by the French couturier Paul Poiret, for whom he was later to work.

The great collections of the Hermitage, especially Greek and Persian art, contributed to his mature style. After studying portraiture with Ilya Repin, the famous painter, he was allowed to continue his studies in Paris, but only remained a pupil of Jean-Paul Laurens at the Académie Julian for a few months.

In 1912, when he arrived, Paris was in the throes of a Russian craze, the result of the exhibitions, operas and ballets presented by Diaghilev. Erté worked for a dressmaker for a short period before being engaged by Poiret as a studio assistant in January 1913.

Professionally he adopted the initials of his name, R.T. (pronounced in French) as a *nom-de-plume*, first used on contributions to the Russian magazine *Damaski Mir*, and appearing for the first time in France in the magazine *La*

Gazette du Bon Ton, May 1913.

Poiret, however, never allowed assistants to sign drawings from his studio so that Erté's early work in American fashion magazines remained anonymous, as did his first theatrical costume for Mata Hari dancing in *Le Minaret*, at the Théâtre de la Renaissance, Paris, in 1913. She was shot as a spy during the ensuing First World War.

When Poiret closed his business as the outbreak of that war, Erté began selling his designs direct to American fashion houses, and in 1915 contributed his first cover design to *Harper's Bazaar* (as it was then spelt).

This led to a contract for monthly covers which lasted until 1935, during which he produced textual decorations and even, when living in Monte Carlo, a series of articles describing life on the Côte d'Azur.

During this period he also worked for other American journals, as well as publications in France and Britain.

His theatrical career commenced in 1915 with costumes for the revue *La Fête de St Cyr*, with Edouard de Max and Yvonne Printemps, which led to a series of productions for the famous Mme Rasini at the Bat-tan Theatre, notably *L'Orléanais Merleux* in 1917, starring Mistinguett and Maurice Chevalier.

Erté later worked with Gaby Deslys and, in 1919, started his famous association with the *Folies-Bergère*. His glamorous and daring numbers led to commissions for Broadway, from Ziegfeld, the Schubert Brothers and, especially, a commission by George White to whose *Scandals* on Broadway he contributed annually until 1929.

The year of world-wide economic collapse saw the death of the lavish revue, but Erté then began a fruitful association with the Bal Tabarin, Paris, and from 1937 worked for British theatres — first the revue *Its In The Bag*



and later for the Palladium, the Coliseum and Victoria Palace.

Cecil B DeMille first invited Erté to design for the cinema, but this plan was frustrated by William Randolph Hearst, publisher of *Harper's Bazaar*, who in 1920, commissioned a magnificent sequence of fancy dress costumes for *Reckless Sex*, starring Marion Davies.

Hearst later suggested Erté to Louis B. Mayer for a projected film called *Paris*, which resulted in the artist spending the year 1925 in Hollywood. Although his designs for *Paris* are among his finest achievements, the film was never made as planned.

After the Second World War he designed many popu-

lar opera productions for the theatres throughout the world and in 1947 was commissioned by the French couturier Pauline for the first performances of his opera, *Les Mamelles de Tiréas*.

Erté also designed ballets for the companies of Colonel de Basil and the Marquis de Cuevas.

Although much in demand by the theatre, he had disappeared from public notice, until his rediscovery by the French writer Jacques Damase which led to an exhibition at the Galerie Motte, Paris, in 1965.

There followed further shows in France and Italy, and his inclusion in the important exhibition *Les Années 25* at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, in 1966, which launched the Art Deco revival.

In 1967 the Grosvenor Gallery held very successful exhibitions in London and New York, after which Erté's work was widely seen and acclaimed, resulting in a series of new commissions, notably for the Zizi Jeanmaire Revues presented by Roland Petit at the Casino de Paris in 1970/72.

One of the first books devoted to Erté, by Charles Spencer who had helped arrange the 1967 London exhibition, appeared in 1970, followed by a richly illustrated volume published by Ricci in Milan, a volume on the artist's fashion drawings and, in 1976, the artist's own memoirs.

Erté continued to design, both for fashion and the theatre, into advanced old age. In 1980 his exuberant designs for *Der Rosenkavalier* at Glyndebourne showed him in complete command of his artistic faculties, despite a reception which ranged from public rapture to critical disapproval. Five years later, at the age of 93, he designed a production of Schizler's *Anatol* in Los Angeles.

In the last decade of his life Erté achieved almost superstar status in the United States. Exhibitions marked his

birthdays, usually accompanied by fancy-dress parties inspired by his Art Deco style.

This popularity resulted from the graphic reproductions of his drawings, initially produced by Circle Fine Art, and later by a number of other publishers, which made his work available to a large new audience. Editions of jewellery and other objects were also published.

Eventually this explosion resulted in some degeneracy, and such peripheral emblems of fame as Erté dolls, diaries, scarves, table napkins, drinking glasses and sculptures in huge editions.

Erté himself seemed oblivious to such frivolities; although, humanly enough, he enjoyed the worldwide attention and affection, particularly from the young pop generation.

But this period should not lessen recognition of the artist's genius and individual contribution to the popular theatre.

Tiny of stature, always elegant and courteous, a lively conversationalist in Russian, French, English, Italian, Spanish and German, Erté enormously enjoyed his second period of glory. His meticulous, witty, inventive drawings won a world audience, both for their unique style and their authentic period quality.

Among the most important influences upon him must be counted Léon Bakst's work for the Ballets Russes and the drawings of Aubrey Beardsley, which he had imitated as a youth in Russia.

It must also be recorded that Erté was a master of stage machinery and techniques, fully exploiting mechanical, kinetic formulas, inventing group costumes and curtains made up of living forms. He proved, above all, that working in the field of popular entertainment an artist of genius can make an original and lasting contribution.

See Arts, p 17

Geoffrey Alderman

Risking the Jewish vote too?

Conservative MPs are reflecting on their party's unpopularity and on ways of redeeming the situation. Most are no doubt concentrating on the community charge and high interest rates. But for a few, particularly those with seats in north-west and north-east London, an issue far removed from what is normally thought of as high politics will loom very large. It is one in which Mrs Thatcher herself has become embroiled as a constituency MP as well as Prime Minister, and for which many voters hold her personally responsible.

In 1985 the government-appointed Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) issued a report on the slaughter of animals by religious methods. It included recommendations on *shechita*, the Jewish method. *Shechita* arouses a great deal of ill-informed public debate; the American Congress long ago (1958) declared it to be humane. The Jewish contention is that *shechita* stuns and slaughters in one operation.

The FAWC wanted *shechita* prohibited in Britain, but did not wish to make this recommendation outright. Instead, it published proposals which would have made it impossible in practice. These included prohibiting *shechita* without prior stunning, limiting the *shechita* cut to a single backwards and forwards movement of the knife, and a ban on restraining pens that incline or rotate the animal.

Mr Michael Jopling, the then Minister of Agriculture, found himself in a difficult position. On July 9 1986 he met Lord (then Sir Immanuel) Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations, and other Jewish representatives, according to the account which Lord Jakobovits subsequently gave to his "Co-ordinating Group for the Defence of *Shechita*" it was clear that the minister "was under considerable pressure from the animal lobby".

On July 22 Mr Jopling wrote to Lord Jakobovits asking the Jewish community, through him, to make "generous moves" to satisfy the animal lobby; and later, while ruling out stunning, Lord Jakobovits reached an accommodation with the ministry.

In October 1987 the ministry announced its acceptance of other recommendations made by the FAWC, including "the single reciprocal cut" and the abolition of casting. In the USA upright slaughter is permitted, but (for

both religious and safety reasons) only in pens which lift the animal off the ground immediately prior to slaughter. Upright slaughter is prohibited in Israel, and by many rabbinical authorities in other countries. The ministry announced that Jews would be required to slaughter cattle in upright pens based upon text (as it transpired) very different from the pens approved by rabbinical authorities in the USA.

Lord Jakobovits responded by welcoming the proposed changes and pledging "to do all that we can to assist in the implementation of the recommendations now adopted". In the months that followed a fierce broke out, both within and beyond the orthodox Jewish communities in the United Kingdom, that has no parallel in modern times. Some most distinguished rabbis in Israel expressed grave reservations about the settlement Lord Jakobovits had reached with the ministry. In September 1988 a committee of American rabbis made representations to the British Ambassador. The *Jewish Herald* in London reported that the London Shechita Authority and members of other relevant organizations were "astounded that the Chief Rabbi has sanctioned regulations which they believe will lead to unreasonable restrictions on *shechita*, and may even threaten its legal standing".

Gradually it became clear that Lord Jakobovits' assumed mandate to speak on behalf of orthodox Jewry in Britain was being repudiated. On September 19 1988 Rabbi E. Halpern, President of the London-based Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations, wrote to Mr Jopling's successor, Mr John MacGregor, rejecting the upright slaughtering pen which the Ministry threatened to enforce. On February 27 1989 Federation members of the Shechita Committee of the Board of Deputies were ordered to oppose upright slaughter. Other leading independent rabbis joined in the disapproval of Lord Jakobovits's concession.

On July 18 1989 Lord Jakobovits wrote to Mr MacGregor asking his ministry to rethink its position on the single reciprocal cut and the proposed upright pen. Some days later the ministry received a letter from a number of Jewish bodies spelling out the changes to draft regulations which they required. "If the draft regulations were enacted",

the rabbi warned, *shechita* "would become illegal in the United Kingdom".

What has all this to do with Conservative political strategy at the present time? The connection is simple. British Jews amount to no more than about 350,000, but they are concentrated in relatively small number of urban areas. Mrs Thatcher has perhaps as many as 12,000 Jewish voters in her Finchley constituency; even greater numbers in Hendon North and Hendon South. There are heavy concentrations in London, and there are significant Jewish electorates in some provincial Tory-held seats.

Correspondence between the Prime Minister and Rabbi Z. Teleser, of the Finchley Central Synagogue, in 1988, signalled to Downing Street that the defence of *shechita* had become politicized. A mass letter-writing campaign has pressed home this message. MPs with Jewish electorates have been shown the strength of feeling.

The Campaign for the Protection of Shechita has pointed out to the Government that the risk it is running is legal as well as political, since local authorities are obliged by law to ensure that no Jewish community is denied "reasonable facilities" for obtaining as food the flesh of animals slaughtered by "the method specially required by their religion".

Whatever imprimatur the Ministry of Agriculture might obtain for its regulations from, say, the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations, other rabbinical authorities will still have the right to object. This means that such regulations, even if approved by Parliament, will run the risk of challenge in the courts on the grounds of *ultra vires*. It is rare, nowadays, for British Jews to feel the need to use their political muscle in their own defence, especially in relation to a government as pro-Jewish as Mrs Thatcher's is thought to be. But the issue of religious slaughter, and the freedom to practise it, are ones of the deepest possible sensitivity. Mrs Thatcher's government has managed to alienate many of its former friends in the electorate. Is it prepared to risk the Jewish vote as well?

The author is Professor of Politics and Contemporary History at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London.

Forthcoming marriages

The Earl of Maitland
and Mrs N. St. Ashby
The engagement is announced between Constantine, eldest son of the Marquis and Marchioness of Maitland, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Milton Shulman.

Mr M. P. R. Corfield
and Miss L. P. Spencer-Phillips
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Corfield, of Kingston House, Totnes, Devon, and Lucilla, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Patrick Spencer-Phillips, of Levells Hall, Bideford, Suffolk.

Mr J.F.G. Dyer
and Miss Rosemary Upson
The engagement is announced between Francis, second son of Mr and Mrs A.D.G. Dyer, of Ngare Ndare, Nanyuki, Kenya, and Bimbi, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J. Upson, of Windermere, Bress, Scotland.

Mr D.J. Priest
and Miss A. Millett
The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Priest, of Epping, Essex, and Adriana Millett, of Adelaide, Australia.

Mr S.G. Foster
and Miss L.C. Heath
The engagement is announced between Stephen George, son of Mr and Mrs Roger Foster, of Newport, Gwent, and Lucy Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Heath, of Kenilworth, Devon.

Mr M.A. Kerrick
and Dr L.E. Rawson
The engagement is announced between Marc Alexander, second son of Mr and Mrs Robert Kerrick, of Fernwood, and Lucy Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr Peter Rawson, of Notling Wallop and Mrs Patricia Rawson, of Tiddington.

Dr R.P.O. Rice
and Miss S.C.L. Humphries
The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Mrs Diana Rice and the late Mr Peter O.F. Rice, of Covecutty, and Susan, younger daughter of Mrs Mary Humphries and the late Mr Warren Humphries, of Honiton.

Mr A.P. di Lorenzo
and Miss T.L. Marvell
The engagement is announced between Antony, younger son of the late Mr M.P. di Lorenzo and of Mrs M.A. di Lorenzo, of Loughton, Essex, and Tracy, second daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Marvell, of Havering, Essex.

Mr R.J. Williams
and Miss P.J. Wood
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Tony Williams, of Backwell, Avon, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Wood, of Newton, Valence, Hampshire.

Mr A.H. Nelson
and Miss E.A. Vigness
The engagement is announced between Alastair, son of Mr and Mrs J.K. Nelson, of Sevenshams, Kent, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mrs and Mrs G.A. Vigness, of Downham Market, Norfolk.

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Marriages

Mr R.C. Cole
and Miss E.C. Holmes
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Thomas's, Barchory, Kincardineshire, of Mr Ben Cole, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.B. Cole, of Staplecross, Sussex, to Miss Emma Holmes, youngest daughter of Mr John and Lady Diana Holmes, of Rickarton House, Strathleven, Kincardineshire. Canon G. Mungavin officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Louise Fraser, Mrs Baird, Mr Edward Cole was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride.

Mr M. Greenall
and Miss M. Hood
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, W2, of Herr Michael Greenall, son of Herr and Frau Heinz Greenall, of Badenweiler, Federal Republic of Germany, to Miss Margaret Hood, younger daughter of Mr Harold and the Hon Lady Hood, of St John's Wood, NW1. Father Philip Carpenter, Don James Hood and the Rev the Hon J.M.A. Kenworthy officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Victoria Hood, Sarah Greenall, Andrew Murray and Alisdair Murray. Herr Klaus Greenall was best man.

A reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent in Bali.

Mr P.B. Whigham
and Miss A.M. Hutchings
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's, Woodbridge, Suffolk, of Mr Peter Brendon Whigham, elder son of Mr and Mrs Leonard Whigham, of Reigate, Surrey, to Miss Alison Margaret Hutchings, younger daughter of Sir Peter and Lady Hutchings, of Melton, Suffolk. Canon John Morris, Canon Brian Thompson and the Rev Trian Thomas officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Charlotte Byers, George Byers, Charlotte Wintgens, Emily Pringle, Charlotte Holmstein, Oliver Leonard, Edward Gribbin, Adam Moll, James Ramsay, Siema Gold and Christopher Gold. Mr Alan Dickens was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Cyprus.

Mr P.W.E. Springman
and Miss C. Robertson
The marriage took place on Saturday at St George's, Hanover Square, of Mr Paul William Eyre Springman, eldest son of Mr Michael Springman, of Bemburgh, Isle of Wight, and the late Dame Ann Springman, to Miss Caroline Robertson, only daughter of Major and Mrs Harry Robertson, of Llanrhillo, Corwen, North Wales. The Rev W.M. Adams officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Rosie Lowndes, William Hignett, Sophie Hignett, Oliver Marlow-Thomson and Miss Annabel Price. Major Simon Montague Marriott was best man.

The marriage took place on Saturday April 21 at St Catherine's Church, Chipping Campden, of Mr Jonathan Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G

Saved by a Plum

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

STEPHEN Fry has a considerable success to celebrate with last night's opening on ITV of *Jeeves and Wooster*, which is probably just as well considering the general tenor of the West End reviews for the new Michael Frayn comedy, *Look, Look*, in which he is starring.

What is most splendid about the Wodehouse, however, is its restoration to drama from light entertainment. The last *Jeeves* series on television 25 years ago was an example of BBC half-hour comedy at its vintage worst, with a caricatured Wooster from Ian Carmichael, a parody *Jeeves* far too late into Dennis Price's decline, and a studio audience cackling at every over-arched eyebrow. Indeed the BBC only began to redeem itself for Wodehouse freaks with the arrival a few years later of Ralph Richardson as Lord Emsworth.

Now we have a bit more of Fry and Laurie, the only *Jeeves*-Wooster team who could plausibly play each other's roles and who are also the right ages. They are further blessed with a series of hour-long dramatizations from Clive Exton which plunder (at least on yesterday's evidence) several different Wodehouse books and characters to build magnificently towards a familiar climax, in this case Bertie's leap into the lake.

Exton's achievement has been to re-constitute Wodehouse within the conventions of the multi-plot drama series, rather than the vaudeville sketches of the past. He is wonderfully served by Hugh Laurie as Bertram Wooster, gurgling his inadequacies into a stiff collar, and by Stephen Fry as the most sinister and supercilious valet since Dirk Bogarde first gave us *The Servant*. "It is people like you," Bertie was told by one of his dragon aunts, "who make this nation despair."

"Oh," said Bertie amiably, "right."

ITV's *South Bank Show* profile of Robert Altman turned out to be little more than an extended and uncritical trailer for his forthcoming *Van Gogh* movie, illustrating yet again television's curious reluctance to come to terms with the history of the modern cinema. Having allowed Kevin Brownlow to tell the story of *The Silents*, it is surely about time somebody was encouraged to deal coherently with the movies of the talking age.

Instead, they allowed Altman, one of the most potent recent influences, to ramble on in a sustained monologue interrupted only by flattering footnotes from his current employees. What we got was much like one of Altman's own films - over-long and undisciplined, although intermittently fascinating.

Thanks to Alan Bennett, television drama has now also discovered the virtues of the monologue: low casting costs, and cheapo close-ups. *Single Voices* (BBC 1) set out with David Jason as a Yorkshire chemist. The script by Roy Clarke sounded as if he had just come to the end of a Bennett tutorial on random one-voice chatter ("Nobody dies around here without interference from me"), but failed to graduate in the full degree course.

On Shakespeare's birthday, Benedict Nightingale defends the principle, if not always the practice, of out-of-period productions

Many happy revivals, William?

Four more doctrinaire critics are to be believed. Shakespeare is having a very glum 426th birthday today. Slumped over his ambrosia in some Olympian tavern, all he can see below are earthlings taking monstrous liberties with his plays. Even the company bearing his name has just launched its new season with a *Pericles* whose hero takes the Grand Tour in Regency dress, an 18th-century *All's Well*, and an *As You Like It* set in the Coward-Capone era. And this very week - the Bard has an ectoplasmic hotline to the Stratford green-rooms - the RSC will be similarly roughing up *Titus* and *Cressida* and *Comedy of Errors*.

Ten, 15 years ago it still seemed noteworthy when a director set a Shakespearean production out of period. That is now the norm. The question is whether this devlopment should be welcomed, accepted, or subjected to the rearguard resistance which Bernard Richards was recommending in this newspaper last week. "Produce with antiquarian zeal" was his dusty plea to our Nunn and Cairds. Hands and Nobles.

Now, there are arguments against updating the classics, and indeed against the *chutzpah* of directors more generally; but Richards's main one seems pedantic. Agreed, it is odd when Ophelia reports that a lounge-lizard Hamlet has his stockings down-gyved, or when, as in Trevor Nunn's 19th-century *Othello*, her wooer can convince an educated Venetian that Africans wear their heads beneath their shoulders. But it takes only a superficial suspension of disbelief to buy such incongruities. They have become just another theatrical convention.

Anyone who argues otherwise, as Richards did, is surely being as literal-minded as those neo-classic critics who found it hopelessly implausible when the span of a play's action was longer than the time it took to see the play itself. And even in those pernickety days they tolerated updated costumes. If Garrick's Macbeth could dress as if he had come from the Battle of Blenheim by sedan chair, what was wrong with Olivier transforming Shylock into a frock-coated Rothschild, as he did 20 years ago?

Of course updating can sometimes draw attention to its own cuteness. I dimly recall an American *Dream* in which Bottom was changed into a woman with a huge

rump, or "ass". But only in such extreme cases is out-of-period production objectionable *per se*. The real problem is deeper: the limiting effect that updating, or any strong director's slant, can have on a classic play.

My own key memory is a *Tempest* that Jonathan Miller directed several years before his recent revival of that play. Prospero became some resident Captain Cook, Stephano a greedy, rum-bearing imperialist, Caliban a tattered field-hand incapable of progress, and Ariel the island's future prime minister, flicking his fly-whisk as he sang of lying in cowslip bells.

The problem was not precisely what Miller did. Without doubt Shakespeare's play was influenced by tales from the American colonies-to-be. But by italicizing that subject Miller neglected the play's emphasis on hope, love, reconciliation, forgiveness, and other such personal matters. The problem was what the production did *not* do. The sin was omission, not commission. That is often the case nowadays with classic revivals, updated or not.

Let us concede that there have been vast improvements in Shakespeare production in recent years. In the past the poor old Swan was often invisible behind mangled texts, elaborate décor, and megalomaniac actors. Our directors nowadays usually prefer to opt for verbal authenticity, spare staging and coherent, unstellar productions. At best their updates have actually made the plays more accessible and eloquent.

Five years ago, the cast of Trevor Nunn's *All's Well That Ends Well* somehow managed to pass through Florence railway station, en route to a distinctly Victorian battlefield. But the result was not just attention-grabbing spectacle. The Jacobean code of honour, so central to the play, seems somewhat remote and amorphous to us nowadays. Its full power became immeasurably clearer when the action was transposed to a world of officers and gentlemen, pomposity and grigishness, much more strongly inscribed on our mental maps.

Again, to see Robin Phillips's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, with rubber balls bouncing across the Rimini sand and over the dry Martins, was at last to feel that



Misguided update: Michael Bogdanov's Falklands Campaign-era production of *Henry IV Part 2*, for English Shakespeare Company, 1987, with Jenny Quayle (left) as Doll Tearsheet, John Price as Pistol and June Watson as Mistress Quickly in Act II, Scene IV

play's youthfulness. More seriously, the strength of Ian McKellen's neat, scrubbed Iago in Nunn's *Othello* last year was his terrifying ordinariness. By transforming him into the kind of NCO our great-grandfathers might have known, had they served in Victoria's army, that became more evident than if he had been dressed in Elizabethan hose or armour or both. In all these cases Shakespeare emerged from up-

dating, not merely undistorted, but with more immediacy, more urgency, and more meaning for our own generation.

The trouble occurs when directors, whether for motives earnest and worthy or opportunist and cheap, become too single-minded in their search for relevance and take it too far. Instead of tracking through Shakespeare's plays with an explorer's open-mindedness, and rejoicing in the abundance

they discover, they select particular features that seem striking and draw attention to those at the expense of others. This is misallied "interpretation", and it leads to the ecological *As You Like It*, the anti-fascist *Hamlet*, the Falklands *Henry IV*, and (any day soon) the *Shrew* with Petruchio as Donald Trump, Katherine as Gloria Steinem, and Padua the cabin of an executive jet. It shrivels plays in order to impress the

gullible with a specious topicality. Never mind the period in which it is set. There is only one test of a Shakespearean production: and that is whether the director has liberated his performers to find all the depth and variety which their talents and the play in question permit. That is what the Bard will be wishing for as he blows out his 426 candles this afternoon. That is the birthday gift he posthumously wants.

Talent and energy misplaced

LORCA'S plays are always a disappointment; even the famous ones, even the famous productions - Garcia's *Yerma* on a tilted trampoline - are thrilling in moments and are the occasion for thrilling tableaux (designers love them) but a baleful unreality and falseness dries them up from within.

Being homosexual in a land that provided the word "macho" may have contributed to his elliptical style, but the trouble is deeper-seated than emotions conveyed in code. No matter what mode he exploits, whether broad farce or surrealist fancy, his technique leaves out chunks of what we long to know about his characters if we are to fathom why they behave the way they do. He assumes we understand more than he dis-

THEATRE
Jeremy Kingston

Lorca Festival
Battersea Arts Centre

closes, and it may be that in Spain his audiences do so. Like local wine bought on exotic shores he does not travel well.

Recent translations by Gwynne Edwards of the comedies, if that is what they are, and the puppet plays reveal the same strange viewpoint and cursory dialogue familiar from the tragedies. Three of these short pieces make up the programme presented at the BAC Studio by the Ragazzi Theatre Company, a new group whose clear talent in the directorial and design areas is more thinly spread in their acting.

As an appetizer they give us *Buster Keaton's Spin*, a surrealist poem that Lindsay Kemp once choreographed and made no more sense of it than Robert Delamere's staging here. Keaton kills his children with a wooden sword, cycles off on his penny-farthing, and meets a wasp-waisted girl in bridal white who fairly soon dies. Played on a weirdly pretty landscape spattered with projection-room cog wheels, and crisply performed by Bruno Roubicek (Keaton) and Vernon Douglas, it really does not add up to much.

Nor does *The Puppet Play of Don Cristobal*, performed by actors pretending to be glove-puppets popping up into view on an enlarged Punch & Judy stage. The pot-bellied, dirty-talking Cristobal is at least better company than Punch, and Kate Collins, sporting purple volcanic breasts, catches the grotesquerie of his sex-mad brude.

The Shoemaker's Wonderful



Bruno Roubicek and Jax Williams in *Buster Keaton's Spin*

Wife is the main offering, again cleverly staged against distorted doors and windows, and punctuated by demonic trills from off-stage violin and flute. A piercing performance by Penelope Diamond as an all-too-tempestuous wife reduces the pleasures of this modest farce, a sort of *Yerma* with laughs. Delamere's direction of the crowd of village gossips is finely stylized and his company has skills in plenty; Victoria Willmott's shy child singing to a butterfly is a charming moment. I hope the company tackles something more substantial next time round.

Star who is clearly in control

GISELLE was the role that introduced Sylvie Guillem to Covent Garden audiences, when Nureyev insisted on bringing her to dance with him. Amazing to think that was only 27 months ago, and to see, at her return to the role on Saturday night, how rapidly she has developed.

It is not that she has discovered new qualities; her virtuoso technique and theatricality were there from the start as a teenage prodigy before London ever saw her. But over the past couple of years she has obviously formed a very clear idea of exactly how she wants to present and project her gifts, even to redesigning the costumes and re-thinking Giselle's dishevelment in the mad scene.

No danger with her of the blurring of styles which can some-

DANCE
John Percival

Giselle
Covent Garden

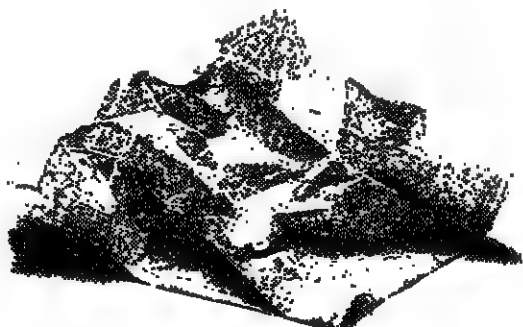
times be found in the Royal Ballet's production. Her Giselle concentrates on the baller's French origins rather than the Russian revisions. Influenced, I assume, by Yvette Chauviré, the doyenne of the Paris ballerinas, she makes telling use of curved hand and arm movements to give an antique grace without losing any liveliness.

For someone often accused of over-sophistication, hers is a remarkably innocent Giselle. It is also, so far, although brilliantly

danced and acted, touching rather than deeply moving; every step and expression are right, but their total effect not quite overwhelming, although her second act, tender and loving, is almost there.

Perhaps a more ardent Albrecht would make the difference; Jonathan Cope dances brilliantly, acts conscientiously, but is just that touch too stolid. Stephen Jeffries is an outstandingly kind-hearted and suffering Hilarión; Errol Pickford's solo in the harvest festival rightly stopped the show.

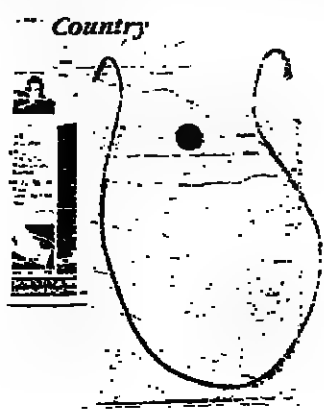
Adam's music sounds splendid in Joseph Horowitz's new revision of the 1924 Paris score by Henri Busser. Barry Wordsworth conducts attractively; but what has happened to the Royal Ballet's music director Isaiah Jackson, not seen these many months?



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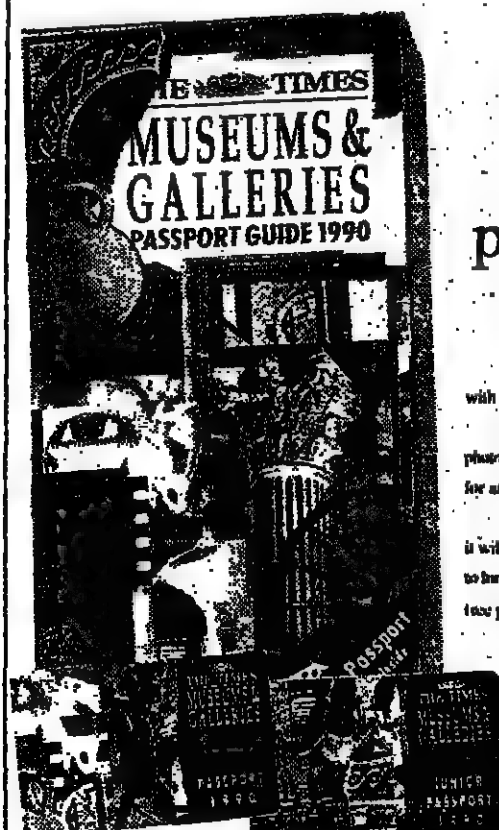
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Rare ravishing romp

CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

BBCPO/Downes.
Festival Hall

ONE of the rarest big works to be included in the South Bank's Szymanowski reappraisal arrived on Saturday night: his 40-minute choral ballet *Harnasie*, which he began in 1923 but did not complete until 1931. During those years he was turning from the Mediterranean and near Eastern lushness of the previous decade to a dependence on Polish folk music, particularly on the music of the Tatra mountain people, and *Harnasie* was planned to blazon that change: the story concerns a Tatra wedding interrupted by mountain brigands, rather as Szymanowski's musical style was being ravished by the hairy songs and dances he had discovered in Zakopane.

But as this exultant performance revealed, he was still the same man. The score is full of elemental mountain tunes and of barbaric effects that probably owed more to *The Rite of Spring* than to anything Szymanowski found in Poland: braying horns, skirling high woodwind, rude brass ostinatos, ranks of clattering

percussion. All through, though, there is the richness and sensuousness Szymanowski had earlier found when imagining ancient Greece, medieval Sicily or the Persia of Sufi poetry.

Rather inevitably, it was the combination of indulgence and vigour in the more massive, splendid dances that made the most impression here, with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra playing like wild things for their conductor Edward Downes, and with the BBC Symphony Chorus contributing loudly and incisively. Szymanowski evidently learned something from *Les noces* as well as *The Rite of Spring*, though his Romantic savagery has more in common with that of Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*. The quieter episodes seemed only interludes, and the withdrawn conclusion, despite fine singing from the soloist Neil Jenkins, was curiously irrelevant, the final consonance coming almost as a cheat. Perhaps the work leads one to expect a Sacrificial Dance, whereas what one gets is the abduction of the bride without the bedding.

The rehearsal time needed to obtain this extravagant performance probably left little to spare for the rest of the programme, and Sibelius's Seventh Symphony was dimmed by insufficient power, light texture and insecurities in the quick passages.

Prodigious young skill

Noël Goodwin

Nordic Soloists
Purcell Room

THREE evenings of what were billed as "rising stars of the north", which ended tonight with players from Denmark and Norway, began on Saturday with a flautist from Iceland and a cellist from Finland. Nothing quite equalled the magisterial account by the 19-year-old Jan-Erik Gustafsson of the unaccompanied Sonata, op. 8, by Kodály, which must be rated the finest work for solo cello written between Bach and Britten.

Besides encompassing the technical demands which one would think stretched to the limit the resources of cello and player alike, this performance had a commanding authority and conviction, but also the kind of style that drew our attention to the quality of the music more than the manner of its performance. It complemented the cellist's earlier playing of Schubert's *Five Pieces in Folk Style*, op. 102, as a compendium of his skill, to which the piano playing of Geoffrey Pratley, the accompanist for the series, made

an equivalent contribution.

The artists and their programmes were verbally introduced by Richard Baker at his most avuncular, warning us of words woven into the fabric of *Xanthes* by Atli Heimir Sveinsson, a sometime pupil of Stockhausen.

Tossed between the flautist Ashildur Haraldsdóttir and her pianist while they continued to perform, and pertaining to some nocturnal poisonous butterflies which gave the work its title, the words contrived a texture of melancholy whimsy, which was further embellished by the flautist's wordless phrases of singing simultaneous with her agile flute playing.

She delivered the requisite virtuosic decoration of variations on Bellini's *Norma* by Anton Fürst-Enau who, we were told, played the flute under Weber in the Covent Garden premiere of *Oberon* (1826), but I was more impressed by her concern for musical range of character in the 1930 Sonata by Walter Piston. Unafraid to exploit the flute's low register as well as its shriller top, and to encourage a legato line in the central Adagio movement, his performance bespoke another young talent of developing potential.

Master of remote beauty

Alistair Hicks on the exotic origins and unique talents of the designer and artist Erté, who died on Saturday

THROUGHOUT his near century-long life, Erté achieved phenomenal success in many branches of design, including graphics, bronze sculptures, clothes and theatre. The father of Art Deco, who died on Saturday aged 97, created designs whose turnover now reaches close to \$100 million (£62.5 million) a year. "If Michelangelo were to come back from the dead," wrote John Russell in 1959, "he could hardly have greater or more eulogious publicity than has been accorded to Erté."

Comparisons with Renaissance figures are far-fetched, but Cellini would be more appropriate than Michelangelo. Erté certainly did not suffer the goldsmith's tendency to physical violence, but neither was he particularly mod-

est. His work matched his words in its bold, brazen but often sinuous lines. He became the most famous exponent of the Art Deco struggle between simplicity and ornamentation, most clearly demonstrated when he tackled his most favoured subject, women.

Erté's mother was his ideal beauty. It was for her at the age of six that he designed a dress. It was she who first encouraged him to paint, much against his admiral father's wishes. He was born Romain de Tiroff in St Petersburg and it was to save his family embarrassment that he chose to work under the pseudonym of his initials, RT, pronounced Erté in French.

The Tiroffs, descendants of a Tartar Khan, arrived in the imperial city at the time of Peter the Great and Erté was the first male

of his family not to enter the navy. Erté's mother undoubtedly supplied the key to his work. She had pale white skin and blue-black hair. His women, endlessly repeated in bronze and on paper, are cold, sophisticated and distant. A heavy eroticism is closely related to a fear and delight in rejection.

As an artist he was not afraid to exploit blatant sexual imagery. Bondage was a constant theme. Women are continually bound to sleek wild animals. In "The Prisoner of Love", a bronze of 1983, there is a slight variation as a woman is fastened to an immovable classical column. He wrote: "The woman's chain symbolises both her captivity and the excitement of being bound to someone or something we love dearly."

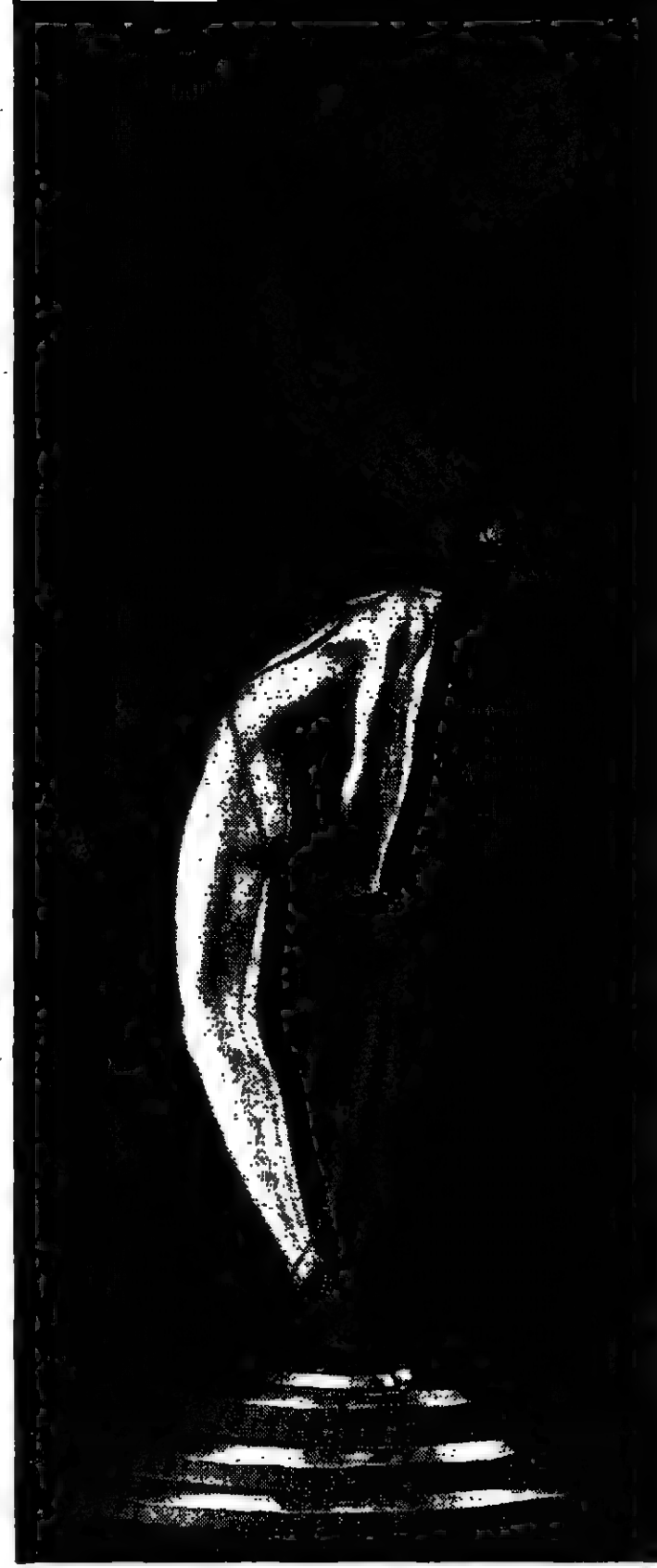
Erté's art was the result of an amalgam of styles. "My taste seemed to favour the ancient cultures," he wrote: "the Egyptian, the Assyrian, and the classical Greeks and Romans." His diverse training and apprenticeship, which included studying under the Russian portrait painter Ilya Repin, a brief stay at the Académie Julian in Paris, his time with the fashion house of Poiret, his association with *Harper's Bazaar* and all aspects of the theatre, encouraged him to borrow from all sources, but ultimately he was reacting to a classic concept of ideal beauty.

There was always the fear that the diminutive figure of Erté might disappear beneath the tidal wave of industry that surrounded him in his last decades. He was pigeon-holed by his very success. He came to epitomise the Twenties and Art Deco, which he himself said, "for the first time fused pure with applied art, which had previously been considered fairly contemptible." He was fully aware of the 20th century's desire to categorize arts and crafts, but he did not worry about treading the dividing line, as it did not exist for him.

Erté went on working to the end of his life. His pictures and bronzes have been avidly collected by museums as well as private collectors, but primarily he was a designer of great style. He shone in the Twenties, when elegance was of supreme importance. He lost virtually everything in the 1929 Stock Market crash, but he survived because he was versatile. He has shown there is always a demand for expression of a classic sense of beauty, however refined.



Elegant and successful: Erté in London in 1988



Woman in chains: "L'Amour", an Erté bronze from 1986

Ironies laid bare

OPERA

Paul Griffiths

Ariadne on Naxos
Coliseum

THE English National Opera production of Strauss's opera within an opera is sprucely set on a stage upon the stage, which suits the ironies of the piece and also, with slightly more equivocal results, puts the acting performances out in the open. Since the Major-Domo is Michael Hordern, speaking to the theatricals with such infinite distaste that he has to steel himself to say anything at all, it is perhaps inevitable that everyone else in the prologue is outclassed, though the fault may well be in the work's pretence that speech can take place on the same time scale as song.

Among those who do sing here, Rita Cullis is properly ardent as the Composer, and produces radiant phrases in the middle and upper register, without being dramatically convincing. Rodney Macann as the Music Master looks carewornly down at the ground for most of the time, which works well as a posture, though it gets in the way of his diction. Kim Begley, grotesquely made up as the Dancing Master, spins and prances vocally as much as physically.

In the opera, Anne Evans offers an Ariadne who looks to be in classically poised distress, with the wig and poses of a Roman matron, but who sounds vulnerable and intense: she is in song, fresh



Finest singer of the evening: Constance Hauman (Zerbinetta)

vocal form, and provides much the finest singing of the evening. Constance Hauman is a pretty Zerbinetta, and her voice has a bubbly liveliness, but it is small, and the high top is uncertainly controlled in pitch and colour. Still, she leads a likeable and funny bunch of clowns, distinguished also by Gordon Sandison's mature demeanour as Harlequin and by Mark Richardson's appealing smiles.

Alan Woodrow as Bacchus battles lustily with the absurdities of the final scene. I hope the troubles with the scenery at this point were as deliberate as the work deserves, and even needs. Lionel Friend conducts a juicy orchestral performance.

Not quite her best

David Fallows

Orpheus and Eurydice
Grand Theatre, Leeds

IN THE whole of Opera North's existence, two of the most memorable performances have been by Sally Burgess — her striking Amneris and her wonderfully liquid Andronico in Handel's *Tamerlano*. Now she sings Gluck's Orpheus, the quintessential show-piece for a glorious mezzo. But two things work against her. The first is Philip Prowse's costume, a shabby modern Greek suit that is decidedly unflattering and makes her look like an androgynous pop-singer, only less well turned out and less well produced.

The other is that she still has no control of Gluck's lines. This is a problem that easily arises. Gluck remains the least often performed of the great operatic composers. His highly individual style may seem like a cross between Handel and Mozart but is worlds away from either. As with Handel, it is hard to predict in advance whether a singer has an instinctive

sense of where the balance of a phrase lies, of the way to make a line both graceful and dramatically powerful. Here too much sounds glib and meaningless. It is also hard to predict whether this will sort itself out, though her musical intelligence is such that it is worth hoping that things will come right in the end.

In the smaller roles only Jane-Leslie Mackenzie as Eurydice sounds entirely at home. Claire Daniels as Amor, in an 18th-century costume that implies her doubling the role of Gluck (or perhaps the librettist Calzabigi), also shows surprising trouble with the music. And she has a similar problem with Philip Prowse's production, which requires her to strut around the stage controlling the action. Ceris Deverill, singing the aria from the Elysian Fields, hardly has time to settle into the prevailing pitch.

So the main value of the evening is in the chorus and the orchestra's playing. Clive Timms guides them with considerable judgement and with an expert sense of the music's flow. There may be rough moments, but this does sound like the real thing.



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In the terrorist age, is the Household Cavalry no more than a fine show for tourists? Brian James reports



Tall order: although turned out in a style from a previous military age, the Mounted Regiment of the Household Cavalry has a 20th century job to do — protecting the Queen

Saddling up for the sovereign

When the Mounted Regiment of the Household Cavalry comes jingling out into Hyde Park tomorrow for the annual Major-General's Inspection, for the first time a woman soldier, 2nd Lieutenant Sarah Morley, will be on parade. Her presence will guarantee tens of thousands more shutter-clicks aimed at Britain's most picturesque soldiers.

But since 1981, when a man aimed five "shots" from a blank-firing revolver at the Queen riding to her birthday parade, the soldiers of the Household Cavalry, changed for more than 300 years with giving protection to their sovereign, have known that this would never again be a duty of mere meaningless ceremony.

Discussion then centred on whether Britain could, in the age of the terrorist, afford so "open" a style of state ceremonial: would our royalty not have to give up their coach-and-horses and retreat, like the presidents and princes of the world, into armoured cars, smiling out from behind bullet-proof glass?

Royalty itself said an emphatic "No", and repeated it after an incident near Braemar last year when a man lurched out of a crowd and made as though to hurl an object at the Queen's car. It was a bottle. It could have been a bomb.

But there have been compromises. At the weddings of both the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York armed men, in the livery of palace footmen, were literally at their shoulders. But when the Queen rides to review her troops of the Household Division such options cannot exist.

This places a very 20th century task on the horsemen plumed and

carapined in the military style of a past age. Rival regiments liked to mock them as "the British Army's only self-financing unit", because where they clank and clatter through London streets tourism flourishes. Now they have a very real duty to perform.

It would be easier drawing the teeth of their horses than to get them to reveal how, precisely, horsemen lock into the world of electronic surveillance and communication used to enable the very well known to go about their very public business. Earplugs, worn by officers who are clearly not deaf, and bits of equipment tucked quietly into saddlebags give the only clues.

But what surprises is learning that the Household Cavalry also hones its ability to defeat the modern assassin by fresh concentration on Skill at Arms, meaning dash and deftness with pistol, sword and lance.

Watching them taking fences with a sabre at the ready, picking up a four-inch wooden peg on a lance-tip at the gallop, leaning from the saddle to break a balloon with a revolver shot, they make a brave sight. But this is skill with the arms, surely, of a long-past age; boldy used at Waterloo, but useless in the West End?

Not so, insisted Lt-Col R.J. Morrisey Paine, their now-retired commanding officer. "What we do is improve the horsemanship and confidence of men to enable them to perform an historic role which is at least as necessary today — that is, the protection of the sovereign."

"We are not just chocolate-box soldiers. Our principal function has not changed. I would say its importance has been re-awakened by events in recent years. Even though we are seen as playing a central role in the ceremonial



Sarah Morley: on parade

pageantry, on the day we are closest to the sovereign and must provide instant protection. No one can anticipate the suicide mission, the bomb carried in pieces and assembled in the crowd. But 40 horsemen can provide quite a shield. We know what we would have to do.

"But the horse is a living thing, with a mind of its own. To be of any use in an emergency our soldiers must have total confidence. That is why we keep alive these skills, to make them better riders, better shots."

The Household Cavalry takes city boys from offices and factories, teaches them to ride and then hones their horsemanship to the point where stirrup-to-stirrup cavalry charges across a stubble field can be done without hesitation, repeated without question.

It is unlikely that protection for VIPs is based entirely on skill with lance and sabre. Captain Stuart

Cowen, the regimental adjutant, said, half-smiling: "Yes, the sabre is still a powerful weapon." But surely not arsenal enough in these times. What about other weapons? "Can't tell you that. Sorry. Let me just say we think we take every precaution, use every resource."

"We have to be covered by police. We were the first target when the IRA switched to attacks on ceremonial troops [in July 1982, when a bomb killed eight horse, four soldiers and injured Sefton, who received — unforgivably — more cards than the maimed men], followed by bomb attacks on the Irish Guards and on Chelsea barracks. But we refuse to huddle inside our barracks, though we are never free from the possibility we may become targets again."

Smaller problems also face men doing Queen's Life Guard duty at Whitehall: tourists ruin the teeth of horses with sugar, louts try to cut pizmas off sentries' helmets, girls scrawl telephone numbers on buckskins and once a Mohican-haired punk headbuttered a horse.

Troopers do not have their "own" horse — each of them is expected to be able to ride every animal. This, a relic perhaps from the days when unhorred cavalrymen would be expected to catch and mount the horse of a fallen comrade, but it demands much of youngsters, 85 per cent of whom have, on enlistment, never sat on a horse.

Why put a non-horseman into the cavalry? The explanation is in the structure of the brigade: the Household Cavalry consists of three regiments. One, the Life Guards, is the army's senior regiment with an ancestry dating back to a royal bodyguard for King Charles II in 1660, though it now wears about in armoured cars from its base in Windsor. The second is the Blues &

Royals, warriors for Oliver Cromwell, now stationed in Germany to crew battle tanks.

Each of these regiments keeps one squadron at Knightsbridge where, with a permanent headquarters, they form the Mounted Regiment of the Household Cavalry. Officers and men serve for two years, providing colourful escorts for the sovereign at such events as the Queen's Birthday parade, the state opening of Parliament and the Garter Ceremony, escorts for her guests on state visits and even a single trooper, when requested, for the Speaker of the House of Lords.

Few claim to enjoy ceremonial duties. Carrying 35lb of extra clothing and equipment, including hugely uncomfortable boots and saddles which make the man only uneasily in control of the horse, means, one officer said, "it always seems a bit of a miracle when at the end of a big parade you can count 109 men and seven officers coming back through the gates, still mounted."

Someone recently asked an officer of the Household Cavalry if it were true that "when you are short of soldiers you dress up national hunt jockeys to fill in your parade?"

The officer smiled and said: "are you really proper soldiers?", such unintended insults aside off-cavalrymen like ill-aimed sabre blows. National Hunt riders are brave men, but it is never expected of them that at a moment of acute danger they would spur the favourite at, say, Market Rasen, into the path of a bullet.

Yet that obligation is accepted by Britain's modern cavalrymen, and ensures that the world of "real soldiers" is one to which all the Queen's horses and all the Queen's men absolutely belong.

The pinstriped revolutionary

An Englishman in New York is pulling political strings around the world

Mark Malloch Brown looks an unlikely revolutionary. Guerrillas do not usually wear pinstriped suits. Yet this Cambridge-educated Englishman is leading a public relations revolution which is mobilizing the forces of America's awesome political campaign machine to influence elections and governments around the world.

If Cory Aquino, the president of the Philippines, needs to deal with a political attack or a personal image problem, or an Argentinian presidential candidate requires a winning campaign commercial, they send for Mr Malloch Brown who, despite being the archetypal Englishman abroad — "a lousy linguist", he cheerfully confesses — knows how to assemble the right mix of local and outside expertise.

"Our role is essentially to apply campaign techniques developed in the United States to foreign election campaigns."

We don't go in to tell a guy how to tie a tie or what colour shirt to wear. We go in to listen to what his case is, test it with sophisticated public opinion research, and then tell him where his weak

flanks are and suggest how he can best project his message."

He can see that "it's the ultimate absurdity to try to make a television spot for Argentina in New York" and regards himself as a "counsellor rather than an aggressive campaign manager". He will only accept "Thatcherite" clients who meet his criterion of democratic government, and never takes money from the US or any alien government to back a third party.

"My client must be the candidate or government itself. In fact, I very unfairly ruled out Violeta Chamorro when approaches were made to me to act on her behalf in Nicaragua, because I couldn't see where she was going to get our fees from unless they were from somewhere in the American government." He turned down Daniel Ortega, too, he emphasizes, "because the guy evidently wasn't a democrat — although I thought it might improve our credentials, instead of doing what the American government wanted."

The eloquent, elegant Mr Malloch Brown does not like to be thought of as a soldier of fortune. Political principles keep him dashing off to darkest Peru or hottest Chile when he could be earning much more from cushy corporate contracts. "The political work doesn't pay very well," he says. "We do so much of it because it's fun."

While acknowledging — and plainly relishing — his power as a string-puller, the 36-year-old former political correspondent for *The Economist*

and editor of *The Economist Development Report* is adamant that the candidates he has helped to power are not puppets dancing to the tune of imperialist masters, but the democratically chosen representatives of their people.

Mrs Aquino was his first client at Sawyer Miller, the American public relations consultancy whose foreign division he had recruited to head. And if he did not exactly start the rumour that Imelda Marcos possessed a profligate 10,000 pairs of shoes, he admits to advising the Aquino aide who did start it not to correct the over-estimation.

From the matte-black modernity of his Manhattan office, in a brief hiatus between trips to Peru, where he is supporting the presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa, Mr Malloch Brown admits that his is "a slightly odd revolution to be exporting from Madison Avenue in pinstriped suits."

"You could easily think: 'My God, this crazy, grand, epic New York public relations industry that has grown up has now become imperial and is being exported to the poor Peruvians,'" he says.

"But I'm terribly conscious of where to draw the line between what's legitimate foreign advice and where local expertise should take over."

He says his experiences of political journalism and development work in Asia

"convinced me that whereas the developed world was busy exporting to the developing world all sorts of useful technologies, they were failing to transfer experience in the one thing which really makes the difference in development, and that's effective responsible leadership."

Does the man so many heads and would-be heads of government are wooing think he might ever get a call to promote Thatcherite principles in his own country? After all, recent polls suggest the Prime Minister could use some help. Mr Malloch Brown smiles at the thought. "I think the Brits would be one of the last nations on earth to hire any outsiders."

He sees himself as the ultimate outsider. "I feel sometimes like 'the Fifth Man,'" he jokes. "I suppose a sign of how internationally ubiquitous I have become is that I did the presidential campaign in Argentina last year."

That, he feels, might also put the original proponent of Thatcherism off hiring him.

Victoria McKee

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Malloch Brown: counsellor

The new twist in the shirt tale is the high-spirited bold prints. Tomorrow, Liz Smith reports on the transformation of the old dependable in everyone's wardrobe



Pick of the Week



A Hawker Fury replica finished in the colour scheme of No. 43 Squadron R.A.F. in 1931.
Estimate: £180,000-220,000

THIS HAWKER FURY replica is almost identical in construction to the R.A.F. single-seat fighter designed by Sir Sydney Camm in 1927. Originally known as the Hornet, the aircraft was renamed the Fury in 1930 when specifications altered and it was fitted with the Rolls-Royce Kestrel IIS engine. Number 43 Squadron, "The Fighting Cocks", was the first R.A.F. Squadron to be equipped with the Fury in 1931 and this aircraft is appropriately finished in their colour scheme. The replica was built between 1984 and 1988 for the late the Hon. Patrick Lindsay

and is offered with a current Permit to Fly. The Hawker Fury replica is included in Christie's sale of Historic Aircraft, Engines and Aviation Art and Literature at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on 28 April at 10.30 a.m. For further information on this and any other sales in the next week, please telephone Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (01) 839 9060.

8 King Street, London SW1
85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7
164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow

Dark deeds in Ambridge

A NEW controversy is about to envelop the regulars of *The Bull Ambridge's* hostility. In the wake of such contemporary topics as adultery, property development and buzzard-poisoning, Ambridge is falling victim to that other 20th century blight — the fan club.

After 39 years of tea-pot drama, the intrepid cast of *The Archers* has succumbed to the demands of the market place by starting an official fan club, *Archers Addicts*. For an annual fee of £10, the radio soap opera's devotees will receive a quarterly magazine, *Village Voice*, photographs of the cast and a "goody bag" containing "fun-packed freebies", such as pens in the shape of forks and spades.

While many of the 7.75 million devoted listeners may jump at the opportunity of reading Shula Archer's recipes for "simply scrummy" ice-cream pudding and Eddie Grundy's "groans" ("Dad, there's a man at the door with a bill," "Don't be silly, son, it's a duck wearing a suit"), there are grumblings of discontent.

When I broke the news of the fan club — due to be launched on Thursday — to art teacher Brian Lewis, aged 41, who founded the Eddie Grundy Fan Club in 1979, he was astonished. When he heard that the cast was running it, his reaction was "how absolutely stupid — actors are almost as dodgy as school-teachers when it comes to this sort of thing".

The Grundy club, formed in the days when farmboy Eddie made a pop record and was, according to Mr Lewis, more of a scallywag than the dirty

Plans to form a club for addicts of *The Archers* have set off grumblings of discontent

old man Mr Lewis feels he has become a revolved-around regular Eddie-Ups in the real-life Old Bull in the village of Inkberrow, near Stratford-upon-Avon.

At its peak, the club boasted 500 members, including disc jockey John Peel and his producer John Walters, who paid £5 a year and shared a dislike of the Archer family, described by Mr Lewis as "a pontificating bunch of old puff-bags". They saw Eddie as the anti-hero, and Trevor Harrison, the actor who portrays him, was the guest of honour at all their events.

The formation of *Archers Addicts* throws into doubt the future of the Grundy club. "It's either a case of us going out with a splutter or setting ourselves up as an extremist wing of *Archers* listeners," Mr Lewis says. "It would be pompous of me to be bitter, but I'm a little bit surprised that Trevor Harrison didn't mention it to me."

While it is expected that all 40 members of the cast will contribute to the new fan club, the nucleus consists of Arnold Peters, who plays Jack Woolley, Heddi Niklaus (Kathy Parks), Patricia Gallimore (Pat Archer), Terry Molloy (Mike Tucker) and Trevor Harrison.

The cast, which took the idea of a fan club to the BBC, claims it is doing it for altruistic reasons. "It was felt that perhaps there was something there that needed to be filled," Mr Peters says.

"Initially, whatever subscriptions come in will go to cover the cost of printing the magazine and the goody bags and membership cards and badges. Later on, if things expand, I don't know what might happen. We might even get expenses back for things like telephone calls."

In its heyday *The Archers*, which celebrated its 10,000th episode last year, attracted 20 million listeners.

Superfan Patrick Pool, who featured in the recent 40 *Minutes* television documentary about *The Archers*, intends to be a founder member. A successful businessman with his own printing and advertising firm, Mr Pool, aged 42, says: "I think it's a tremendous idea from a commercial point of view, because it means they can get a list of the names and addresses of all the fans. There are masses of things they can do to promote the programme and as a company."

Mr Pool, who hired a morning suit to attend the "wedding" of David and Ruth Archer, sees nothing wrong with the cast running the club. "It may seem unusual, but they're not high earners, and presumably it could be a jolly good supplement to one's income. They're tremendous people and I would be very pleased to give them any help or advice they wanted."

Sally Brompton



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Can you design a baby?

After all the theories, are we any closer to being able to choose the sex of our children? Lee Rodwell reports

Visitors to the European Clock and Jewellery Fair last week were privileged to be in on the launch of a very special line. Forget watches which work under water, tell you the time in five capital cities, or double up as computer games. This one, claims Ernst Stritt, a Swiss clockmaker, will tell you when to make love in order to have the child of your choice.

Couples who know the risk they run of passing on a fatal or crippling disease to sons, but not to daughters, would undoubtedly be interested in any method which might predetermine the gender of their children. At the moment, the only sure way of knowing whether your baby will be male or female is through advanced *in vitro* fertilization techniques, whereby the gender of an embryo can be identified before implantation.

But are there any ways of tipping the odds? The watch that tells you when is just the latest in a range of do-it-yourself sex selection methods which claim to do just that, although closer examination shows that such methods have been practised for a long time, and have changed little over the years.

There are three basic approaches, often used in combination. These involve diet, the timing of intercourse and the use of douches.

On the question of diet, for instance, James Lyster, a biologist working at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Hammer-smith Hospital, London, suggested in 1980 that a man who wanted to sire a son should eat six ounces of cooked shellfish every day for six weeks, then wait another 40 days before making love.

Timing is often seen as crucial. The idea that the gender of your offspring depends on when, during the menstrual cycle, you make love was mooted in ancient Greece, but was popularized in 1970 by Landrum Shettles, an American gynaecologist.

Dr Shettles suggested that boys would be more likely to be born when coitus took place close to the time of ovulation. He based this on the theory that sperm bearing the Y (male) chromosome are faster but shorter-lived than their X-bearing female rivals. Thus having intercourse at the time of ovulation, when cervical mucus favours sperm penetration, would increase the chances of allowing the Y-bearing sperm to reach the ovum first. But if insemination took place a few days before ovulation the Y-bearing sperm would probably have perished by the time the egg was released, leaving the way clear for any surviving X-bearing sperm.

However, after Dr Shettles' ideas were publicized, Rodrigo Guerrero, another American researcher, suggested that the reverse was true, and that women were more likely to give birth to boys if they made love six to nine days before ovulation.

The dispassionate observer might assume that in the light of such contradictory evidence, not to mention the difficulty of pinpointing the time of ovulation, timing would no longer be seen to be an issue. However, 10 years ago, Hazel Phillips, a North London mother who put her own ideas into practice to bear a son, third time around, published a booklet about her methods. In 1985 this booklet was turned into a book, *Girl or Boy: Your Chance To Choose*, which has sold more than 20,000 copies in this country.

Mrs Phillips' views on timing echo those of Dr Shettles. She also mentions the possibility that altering the acid/alkaline balance by douching with a weak solution of white vinegar or bicarbonate of soda might tip the odds. Mrs Phillips also suggests that the position

adopted for intercourse may be relevant.

More important than either of these, she believes, is whether or not the woman has an orgasm before her husband does. Her advice? For a boy, it's ladies first. She says: "From the letters I have received, written by people who have taken my advice, I believe I have a success rate of about 80 per cent."

Despite Mrs Phillips' confidence, however, most experts in human reproduction agree that attempts to predetermine the gender of children by such methods are ineffective. John Aitken, who works for the Medical Research Council's unit of reproductive biology in Edinburgh, says: "There have been no convincing data published in the scientific literature which could indicate that any of these factors has an effect."

"In the past, there were no really good techniques to enable us to identify which sperm were X and which Y, but now these techniques are available. We have been able to develop probes, consisting

of small molecules of nucleotide bases, which specifically bind to the sequences on a Y or an X chromosome.

"With these techniques, which are also the ones now used to determine the gender of an embryo, we can go back to all the old procedures which claimed to separate X and Y sperm. All of these procedures have been shown to be worthless."

So could anything work better? In 1976 Ronald Ericsson, a reproductive physiologist based in California, patented a method of filtering sperm. The aim was to boost the proportion of Y-bearing sperm in a sample which could then be used for artificial insemination. Not long afterwards the American Population Bulletin gave a warning that the whole area of sperm separation was characterized by premature claims of success, although it conceded it was possible that some type of separation technique would eventually be successful in improving the odds of gender selection.

Their caution appears to have been justified. Since then there have been reports of scientists in India and Japan separating the two types of sperm by using centrifugal force but, Dr Aitken says, we are still no closer to being able to develop really successful techniques. Even a relatively new technique called flow cytometry holds out little hope for humans.

Flow cytometry works by measuring the amount of DNA in a sperm head so that X and Y sperms can, in theory, be separated. Dr Aitken says: "This technique is likely to have applications for domestic animals, but humans have proved to be more difficult because human sperm is not consistent enough. Other species are much more uniform in size. In any case, the sperm itself is compromised by the very act of being sorted, and its fertilizing action tends to be diminished as a result."

"The research is very low key - in fact, some countries, such as India, have banned research on sex selection techniques on sperm. Unfortunately for parents who need to be able to choose the sex of their child there are no good leads to be followed."



"Congratulations! It's a baby."

Cartoon by Charles Addams from *The New Yorker*, 1940

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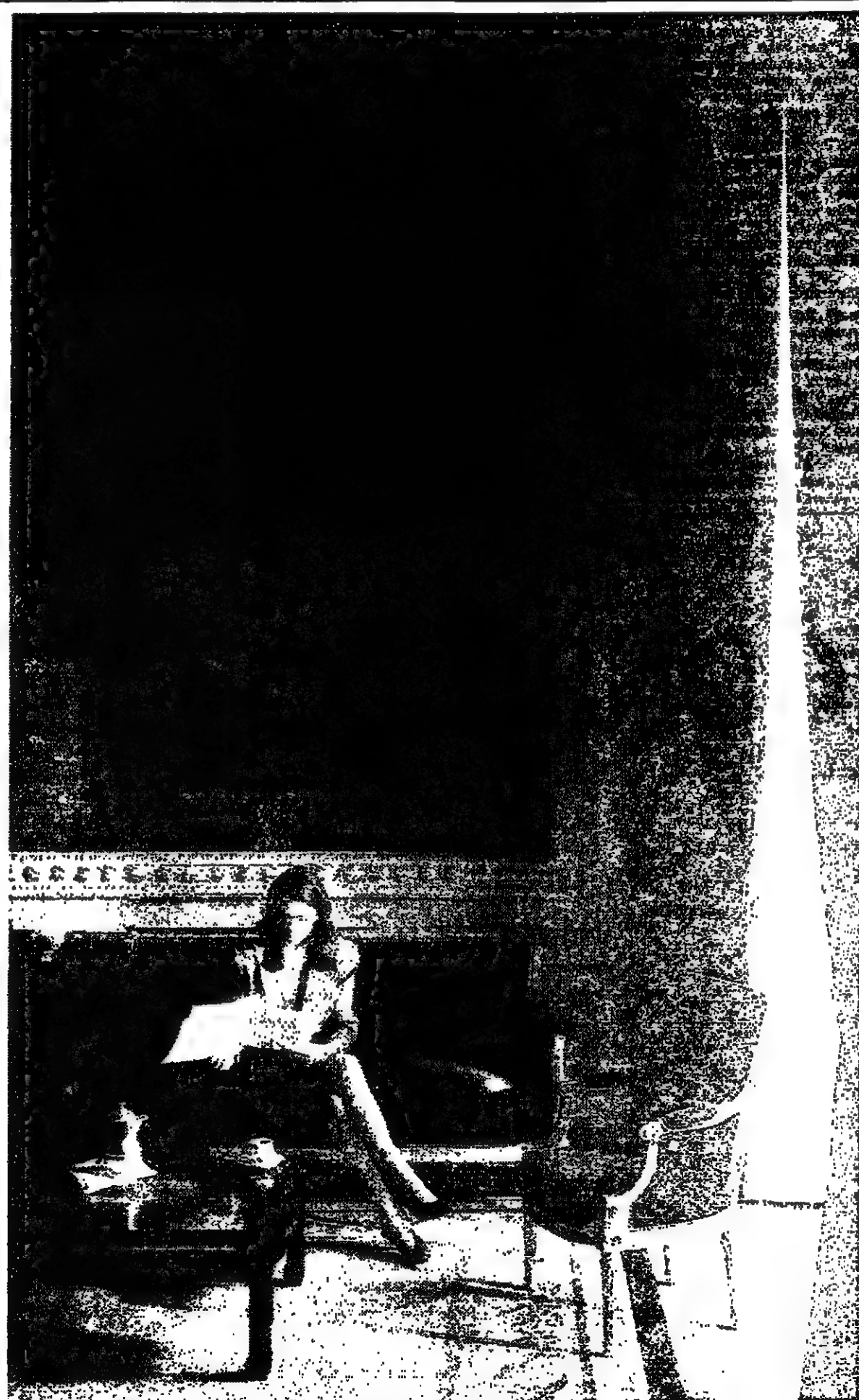
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Toast for the happy couple

Salmonella is still quite likely to be an uninvited guest at some wedding feasts



In sickness and in health: eating the cake a century ago

Last year, salmonella poisoned more than 600 guests at 10 wedding receptions. Beef struck down 106 in Middlesbrough and 66 in Lincoln; cold turkey accounted for 67 in Coventry.

These, of course, are the figures which were actually reported. According to Roger North, a consultant in environmental health, they represent the tip of an enormous iceberg drifting uncontrollably in a sea of prawn cocktail, coronation chicken and chocolate mousse. Ill-prepared dishes involving eggs, chicken or meats can guarantee a wedding everyone will remember for all the wrong reasons.

It is possible to take precautions. No chances were taken at the recent wedding, at Blenheim Palace, of the Marquess of Blandford. The 600 guests, including the Duchess of York, were served champagne and canapés. "We used pasteurized eggs and no mayonnaise," says Paul Vespet, outside catering manager for Ring and Brymer, the caterers for 10 Downing Street.

Safer still, obviously, is to eat nothing. Honeymoon nerves have probably saved many newlyweds. But, Mr North says, "The real answer is to live in sin."

The better caterers are moving in the right direction. They check suppliers regularly. They invest in high-tech equipment: refrigerated lorries, powerful electric turbo ovens for on-site cooking, digital thermometers and blast chillers to cool hot food

quickly, and prevent it from becoming contaminated in a warm kitchen. This blast, together with a course in health and hygiene for all caterers, was expected to have been made obligatory in the new Food Bill. No such measures were announced.

"Anyone can set up a caterers in any dirty hole because there is a serious lack of Government health inspectors," said Jenny Lancashire, head chef of the Admirable Crichton, in London. She says no one from the ministry has checked their kitchen, which provides food for Tiffany's and Thames Television, in the past year.

In the catering field the Government emphasis seems to have been on punishment of offenders rather than education and prevention. "Last year the Government spent just under £7 million, and food poisoning rose 7.6 per cent," Mr North says. "Clearly the effort expended has not yielded results. But if every wedding were checked, we could turn food poisoning around within the year."

"Last August the Communicable Disease report, which is put out weekly by the Public Health Laboratory Service, stopped giving the location of outbreaks, thus making them very difficult to trace. Four weeks ago they stopped giving food poisoning figures altogether. It's as if food poisoning has disappeared off the face of the earth."

Nicola Murphy

The silver year for records

**Derek Harris
looks at the
silver jubilee list,
including the
inevitable greens**

Records were broken everywhere in the Queen's Awards for export and technological achievements this year. It seemed especially apt as the silver jubilee of the awards has fallen this year. It was one of several factors — some of them planned — that have combined to make this silver jubilee special.

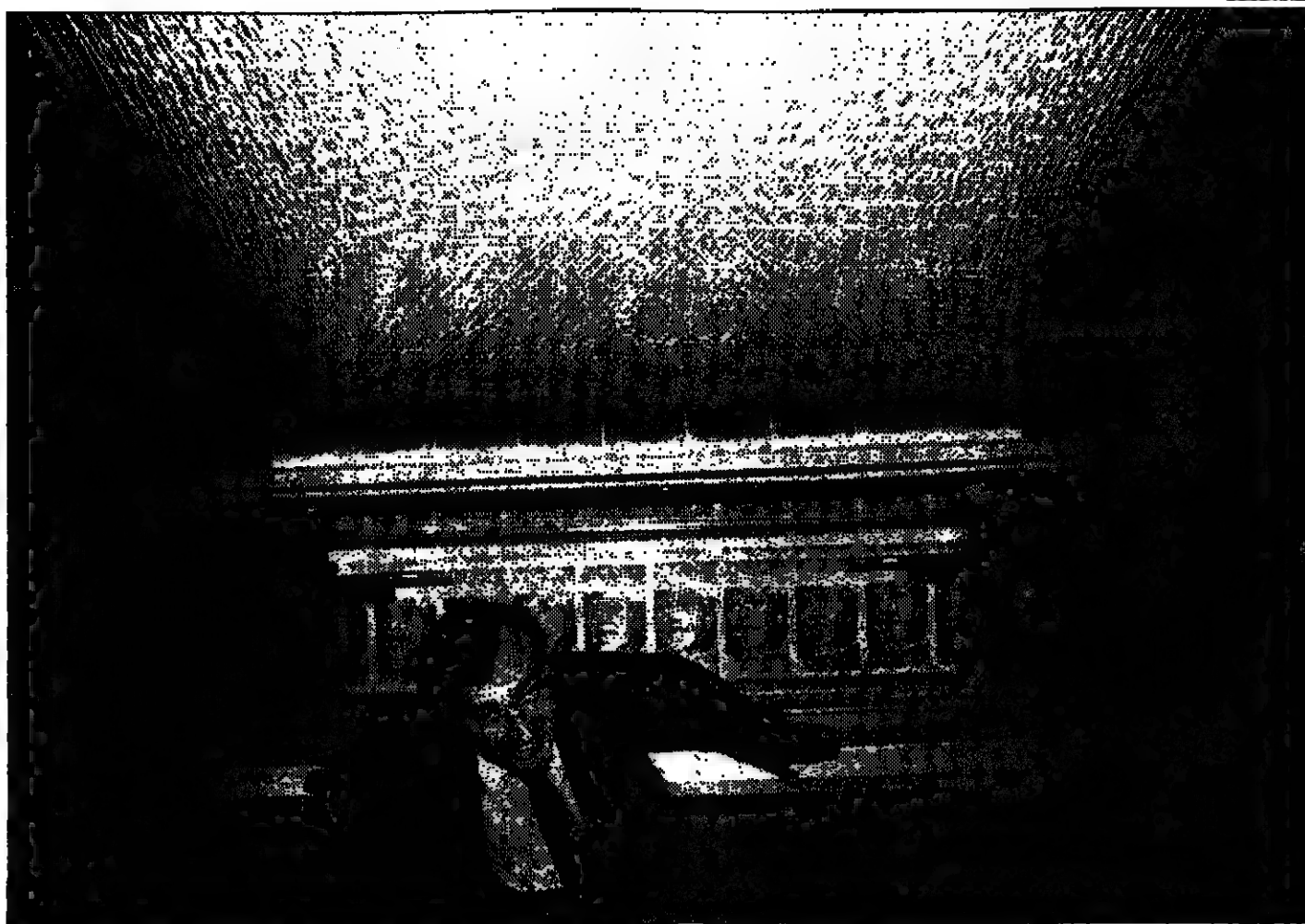
For one thing, there was, fashionably, more than a tinge of green among the record 175 awards as company endeavours took an increasing number into more environmentally friendly products. They ranged from new direct injection diesel engines by the Cambridgeshire-based Perkins Engines Group, to a low-level emission system for power station boilers developed by NEI International Combustion at Derby, part of Rolls-Royce, the aero engine maker.

Anita Roddick's Body Shop International, with its naturally based skin and hair care products, is another enterprise with a shade of green, but the company's mounting export record won it an award. No environmental criterion has been built into the system for choosing winners.

Award-winners ranged from the smallest of enterprises to blue-chip companies such as ICI, Britain's biggest manufacturer and one of the most prolific winners of awards over the years. ICI's total awards, mostly through achievements by subsidiaries, now amount to 57. The General Electric Company (GEC), which in the 25 years has also scooped up many awards, figures again in this year's list. One winner is its GFT telecommunications subsidiary.

Land Rover, part of British Aerospace, is recognized for its export successes particularly through developing its vehicles for the needs of such markets as Europe, North America and Australasia. Recently privatized British Steel is also among the big company winners.

The smallest business to win an export award was Reedhill Deer



Textile double: Ian Harris's Bonas Machine Company uses a "black box" to speed up weaving. The result is technology and export awards

'After 1992 exports may have to be outside the EC to qualify'

Farm, run by Dr John Fletcher, at Auchtermuchty in Fife, Scotland. Reedhill, which employs four people, has pioneered the exporting of red deer as breeding stock. France is its largest market but it sells to other European countries, the United States, Japan and New Zealand. Its export earnings have more than quadrupled in the past three years.

The sole individual company to win both an export award and one for technology is the Bonas Machine Company, of Gateshead, Tyne & Wear. It has now accumulated three export trophies and another three for technological achievement. By staying at the forefront of textile machinery design, the company, with Ian Harris as its managing director, has seen fourfold sales growth in four years. The turnover stood at £22 million in the last full year.

More than 85 per cent of the company's production is exported and it has licensing agreements for its machinery in key textile coun-

tries, including Japan, Switzerland and Belgium. The latest technological award is for an electronic machine, which as a "black box" added to existing broadcloth weaving looms both simplifies the system and at least trebles the working speed.

As one of the planned special touches, this year's winners, will each get a commemorative wall plaque struck to mark the silver jubilee, in addition to the traditional awards, which are held for five years. Winners will be able to display the plaques indefinitely.

This year awards for export achievement went to 126 organizations, the highest number in the 25 years of the scheme. The previous highest number, 120, was handed out in 1987 while last year there was also a comparatively high score at 116.

The 49 technology achievement awards outnumbered the 43 of 1988 and last year's 40.

The 1989 combined total of 156, which had been the highest until then, was exceeded this year by 12 per cent.

The number of applications for awards this year was 1,355, well ahead of last year's 1,087, and the highest number since 1979.

Since 1966 a total of 2,863 awards have been made, 2,229 for exporting, 579 for technology and 55 for combined export and technology awards, which existed as a separate category from 1966 to 1975.

A firm of lawyers figures in the list for the first time — Baker & McKenzie, an international law firm that has a network of 40 offices world-wide.

Academic establishments get-

ting export awards through their earnings either from foreign students or in carrying out consultancy work abroad include the London School of Economics and Imperial College. It was only last year that the first university figured among export award-winners, although academic involvement in technological developments has more frequently been recognized.

Although the silver jubilee has proved a watershed for the awards scheme in many ways, there is another looming. From 1992 the European Community moves to the realities of a single market.

It seems logical that eventually exports should be rated as such only when sales are made outside the Community.

The single market effect will show up by 1994, although perhaps a UK framework could be retained for as long as national statistics on trade are maintained to keep the score on cross-border trading within the Community.

That sweet taste of selling abroad

Crunchy croutons made in the Garden of England helped Chancer Foods win a Queen's Award for Export Achievement (Irene Farnsworth writes). The company, employing 20 people, was set up in Ashford, Kent, in 1982 by Colin Hunter, who continues as managing director even though Chancer Foods is now a subsidiary of Hazelwood Foods, of Derby.

Turnover this year is nearing £2 million, reports Michael Sheldon, the company secretary.

The secret of making successful croutons? "They have to stay crunchy in boiling liquid, and we have perfected the technique," Mr Sheldon says. "The bread, which used to be baked on the premises but now comes from an outside supplier, has to be made to a special recipe."

The once labour-intensive process is now highly mechanized and therefore faster. Croutons are used in instant and dehydrated soups and as snacks. Garlic and herb varieties are becoming increasingly popular, and products are exported to Europe, the United States and Australia.

Chancer's salespeople are getting to grips with foreign languages and have recently been taking German lessons.

The oat miller and food manufacturer Morning Foods, of Crews, Cheshire, owes its export achievement award partly to keeping the crunch in breakfast cereals.

The company can trace its history to 1675 and is probably Europe's oldest-established cereal manufacturer, says John Lea, the managing director, who is a

descendant of the founder. Son has followed father in the business in an unbroken line for 315 years.

Morning Foods has grown steadily and has an annual turnover of between £25 million and £30 million. It produces more than 100 different types of oat products, including the Mornflake range of breakfast cereals, and has won international awards for excellence. The company exports to western Europe, Iceland, the Middle East, the Far East, the Caribbean and the US.

"We have gone some way in creating the healthy food market," Mr Lea says. "Oat bran has been much in vogue in the past 18 months, and we have been making it for 50 years."

The sweet taste of success is also being enjoyed by Birmingham-based Premier Biscuits, manufacturer of chocolate-coated and assorted biscuits, which has won an export achievement award. France is its largest market, but Premier also exports to other European countries, as well as the US, Japan and New Zealand. Export earnings have increased more than four times in the past three years.

Drinks feature in the awards too. Honours go to Chivas, the Scotch whisky and gin distiller, which sells to 197 countries and has gained its third award. Douglas Laing, an independent family-owned Scotch whisky company with increased sales throughout Europe, the US and the Pacific Rim, and Dandell Scotch Whisky Sales, which exports premium-grade whisky to 48 countries. Its biggest customer is Japan.



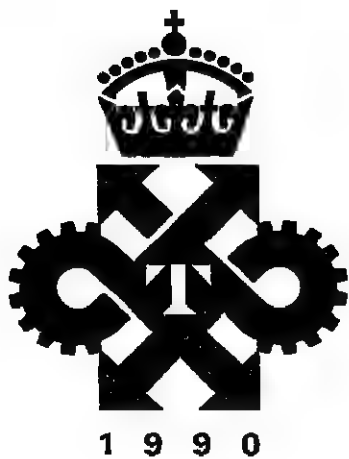
Croutons, croutons, everywhere: Colin Hunter and his product

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Yarrow Shipbuilders Ltd
for the development of
the Type 23 Frigate



1990

THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR
TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT 1990

GPT for the development of
System X, the computer
controlled switching system
for telecommunications



1990

THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR
EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT 1990

Salford Electrical Instruments Ltd
for heated rear window aerial
units, which replace
conventional rod aerials

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WORLD LEADERS IN OAT TECHNOLOGY

1990

THE QUEEN'S AWARDS/3

FOCUS

Exporters who got to the top

THE following have been granted the Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1990:

Advisory Services Holdings Group, London W1: medical consultancy services.

AgriSense-BCS, Pontypridd: insect pest monitoring and control systems.

Align-Rite, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan: photomasks and design services.

Apollon Fire Detectors, Havant, Hampshire: fire detectors.

Aquasentum Group, London W1: men's and women's clothing and accessories.

Armabond, Burnley, Lancashire: melamine edging material.

Industrial Clutch Division of Automotive Products, Laxington Spa, Warwickshire: industrial power take-off clutches.

Baker & McKenzie, London WC2: legal services.

Bermans & Nathans, London NW1: film and theatrical costumes.

Biosens, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan: orthopaedic implants and instruments.

The Body Shop International, Littlehampton, West Sussex: skin and haircare products.

Boas Machine Company, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear: weaving machinery and allied equipment.

Border Holdings (UK), Clun, Shropshire: spare parts and components for vehicles.

British Ceramic Service Company, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire: kilns.

British Rapla, Ayr, Ayrshire: woven textiles.

British Sidac, Wigan, Cumbria: cellulose and polypropylene films.

British Steel Stainless, Sheffield, South Yorkshire: stainless steel.

Butterfly Brick, Ripley, Derbyshire: clay facing bricks/facing pavers.

C & S Antennae, Rochester, Kent: antenna systems.

C B Brook & Company, Bradford, West Yorkshire: bunting and woven woollen abba cloth.

Caledonian Air Motive, Prestwick, Ayrshire: overhaul and refurbishment of jet engines.

Cambridge Research Biochemicals, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: biochemicals.

Chancer Foods, Ashford, Kent: croissants.

Chivas Brothers, Paisley, Renfrewshire: whisky, gin and rum.

The College of Petroleum Studies, Oxford, Oxfordshire: management and business courses.

Courtside Speciality Plastics, Derby, Derbyshire: cellulose acetate film moulding compound and sheet.

Craibtree of Gateshead, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear:

metal decorating and coating equipment for the can making industry.

Crockett & Jones, Northampton, Northamptonshire: men's footwear.

Cresrol, Halifax, Yorkshire: short staple carding machines.

Cresslake, Hipperholme, Halifax, Yorkshire: domestic tumble driers.

Crystalax, Wantage, Oxfordshire: crystal growth equipment.

Datapag, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: in-process thermal monitoring systems.

Deat Instrumentation, Colne, Lancashire: electronic yarn-break detectors.

Douglas Laing & Company, Glasgow, Scotland: whisky.

Dunhill Scotch Whisky Sales, London NW1: Scotch whisky and crystal whisky decanters.

Dunkirk Metals, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire: aluminium diecastings.

Eclipse Billets, Glasgow, Scotland: window blind systems.

Edgeworth Electronics, Darlington, Co Durham: audio amplifiers and loudspeakers.

The Floor Care Division of Electrofax, Luton, Bedfordshire: vacuum cleaners.

Ethicon, Edinburgh, Scotland: surgical sutures and ligatures.

Fairbank Brewery, Bingley, West Yorkshire: spring-making machinery and gas-fired rapid heating furnaces.

Fairley Industrial Ceramics, Stone, Staffordshire: ceramic water filters.

Filstar International, Bridgnorth, Shropshire: oil mist filtration equipment for machine tools.

Glaxo Holdings, London W1: ethical pharmaceuticals.

Glister Leisure Furniture, Bristol, Avon: teak garden furniture.

Gluck Engineering Company, London SE15: clock mechanisms.

Hazleton Laboratories Europe, Harrogate, North Yorkshire: contract life science research.

Hepco Slide Systems, Gremford, Middlesex: linear bearings and slideways for machinery.

Heraeus Noblelight, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: laser light sources.

History Craft, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: reproduction ivory software from resin.

HMB Software, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk: remote operated underwater vehicles and services to the oil industry.

Hunt & Moscrop, Middleton, Manchester: paper finishing machinery.

ICI Agrochemicals, Farnham, Surrey: herbicides, fungicides and pesticides.

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine,

London SW7: teaching and research.

IOP Publishing, Bristol, Avon: scientific books and journals.

John Brown Engineering, Clydebank, Dunbartonshire: gas turbines.

John Guest, West Drayton, Middlesex: push-in tube fittings.

Kodak, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire: photographic films, papers and chemicals.

Kvaerner (UK), South Shields, Tyne and Wear: ships cargo access equipment.

The London School of Economics and Political Science, London WC2: university tuition, research and consultancy.

Lowie Refrigeration Company, Carryduff, County Down: refrigerated display and storage equipment hire.

LWT (Holdings), London SE1: sale of television programme rights.

M F Industrial, Strerford, Greater Manchester: trucks and industrial loaders.

The Pedigree Petfoods Division

Immerlithen, Peebleshire: customers and pure wool knitwear.

New Electronics International, Metheringham, North Lincolnshire: sound mixing consoles and systems.

Northbrook Laboratories, Newry, County Down: veterinary pharmaceuticals.

Orthotech (UK), Maitby, South Yorkshire: orthopaedic implants.

Oyster Marine, Ipswich, Suffolk: sailing yachts.

Paine-Watson, Salisbury, Wiltshire: machine and military pyrotechnics.

Parker Bath Developments, New Milton, Hampshire: medical bathing and mobility equipment.

Pearle & Kewitt, c/o Flaxer of London, London W1: men's suitings and accessories.

Phil Ayliff Products, Nuneaton, Warwickshire: motorcycle disc brake pads.

Publey Mint, Sutton, Surrey: coins.

Parlative Potteries, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire: pottery and tableware.

Purvis Illicita - a Division of Premier Brands UK, Birmingham, West Midlands: biscuits.

Poles, London W1: hand-held computers, peripherals and software.

Purvis Illicita, Birmingham, West Midlands: synthetic resins.

Q D F Components, Derby, Derbyshire: iron castings.

Quayle Dental Manufacturing Co, Worthing, West Sussex: dental equipment, instruments and materials.

R Messers & Co, London EC3: insurance and reinsurance broking.

Radcoflex, Bristol, Avon: location equipment for buried pipes, cables and drains.

Ranlux Laboratories, Cranston, County Antrim: medical and veterinary pharmaceuticals.

Rediffusion Simulation, Crawley, West Sussex: flight simulators.

Redwood International, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire: business software.

Reedhill Deer Farm, Croy, Surrey: live red deer.

Reynard Racing Cars, Hoxton, Oxfordshire: racing cars and components.

Reynolds & Kent, Westbury, Wiltshire: leather gloves.

Romacrete, Dagenham, Essex: building materials - polymers, cement and sand mixes.

The Automotive Electronics Division of Salford Electrical Instruments, Heywood, Lancashire: heated rear window aerial units.

Sandon Flexographic Printing, Rollers, Runcorn, Cheshire: printing plates and printing equipment.

Serif Cowell, Ipswich, Suffolk:

boardrooms.

Servco Diagnostic, Woking, Surrey: medical diagnostic kits.

Sharn Manufacturing Company of UK, Wrexham, Chyr: VCR's, microwave ovens, CD players, photocopiers and typewriters.

Snell & Wilton, Portsmouth, Hampshire: television standards converter.

Sony Manufacturing Company UK, Brighthelm, Mid Glamorgan: colour televisions and components.

Spartan Metal Products, Draperstown, County Londonderry: steel storage equipment.

Springer Manufacturing, Redditch, Worcestershire: stainless steel compression springs.

Starting Aquaculture, Glasgow, Scotland: aquaculture consultancy, fish farm design and management.

Sunnet + Vine, London W1: TV programme production and distribution.

Supertrack, Bromley, Kent: transport and related services.

Tadpole, London W1: universal laundry loading and distribution systems.

TBS Engineering, Chichester, Gloucestershire: special machinery for lead and battery industry.

Tecma, Croydon, Surrey: West Yorkshire: carpet.

Techaphone, Canterbury, Surrey: portable cellular telephones.

Tipple Group, Bromley, Kent: transport and related services.

Toddman, London W1: Wiltshire: medical and veterinary pharmaceuticals.

W H Harold John (Motels), Crick, Leicestershire: motels.

Walker Filtration, Washington, Tyne and Wear: filtration equipment.

Walton Process Engineering, Sandwick, West Midlands: process engineering consultancy.

White & Company (Glasgow), East Sussex, Northamptonshire: footwear.

William-Wegman Alloys, Rotherham, South Yorkshire: ferro stainless and titanium alloys.

Wells Publishing, London W1: scientific, technical and medical books.

Yale Materials Handling, Walsingham, West Norfolk: fork lift trucks.

Educated to sell

THE London School of Economics, numbering among its graduates 23 past or present prime ministers or presidents, 26 university vice-chancellors, 41 bank governors or presidents and more than 120 ministers, ambassadors or government consultants, has statistics to boast about. And it can put money where its mouth is - foreign earnings have won the LSE an export achievement award.

The LSE, with Dr I G Patel as its present director, encourages the recruitment of overseas students. They now make up almost half its total attendance and come from more than 100 countries.

Imperial College, London, another academic winner of an award, has gained impressive overseas earnings in fees from an increasing number of foreign students. The college of science, technology and medicine also attracts research grants and contracts from abroad. More than 1,200 students from 90 countries are now at the college and the areas from which it gains research grants and contracts include the Far East, Europe, South America and Africa.

An independent college running management and busi-



Dr Patel, delighted director of the college, has won an award through its Institute of Aquaculture, which was set up in 1985 to do consultancy work for the aquaculture industry. This covers fish farm design and economic appraisal, health control, pharmaceutical and vaccine development and project management. Almost three-quarters of its earnings now come from abroad, and it has trebled its overseas sales in three years.

The Hilton UK Hotels Division of Ladbroke Group, Watford, Hertfordshire: hotel accommodation.

Laidlaw Drew, Livingston, Scotland: combustion equipment (burners).

Land Rover Commercial Division of Rover Group, Solihull, West Midlands: four-wheel drive vehicles and spare parts.

The Special Products Division of Leslie Hartridge, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire: automatic test equipment.

of Mars GB, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire: petfood.

McLellan & Partners, West Byfleet, Surrey: consulting engineers and project managers.

Metrotect, Clackhous, West Yorkshire: pipeline protection materials.

Midwest Short, Petersfield, Hampshire: domestic loudspeakers and amplifiers.

Morning Foods, Crews, Cheshire: oatmeal.

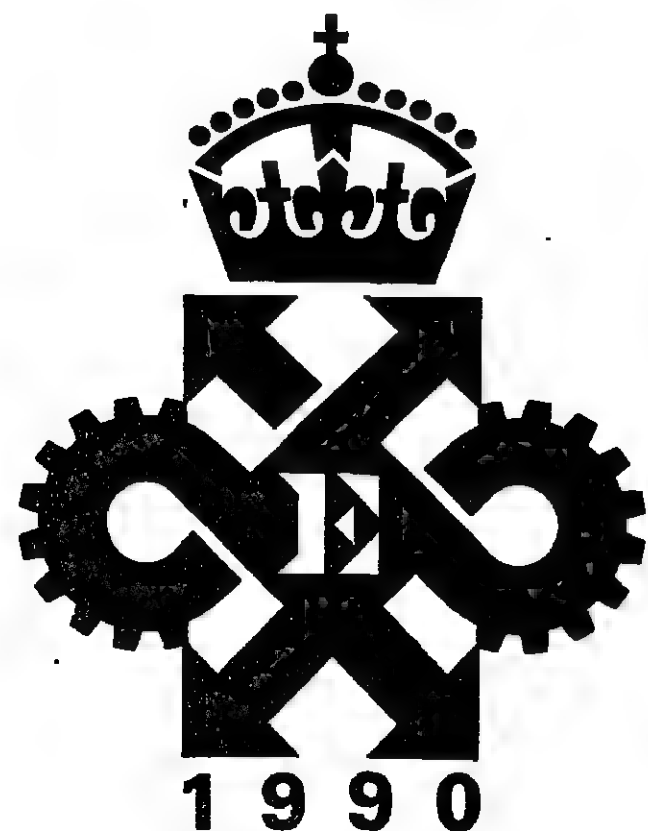
MTM, Yarn, Cleveland: speciality chemicals.

Murray Allen of Fishwick, Leicestershire:

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The Queen's Award for Export Achievement coincides happily with the 75th anniversary of stainless steel, discovered in Sheffield by Harry Brearley.

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The Queen's Award is in recognition of this consistent growth. A very happy return.

The bus tech

Butterfield

FOCUS

THE QUEEN'S AWARDS/4

The best in the business of technology

THE following have been granted the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement 1990:

The Paper Division of Allied Colloids, Bradford, West Yorkshire: high-quality paper and board.

The Research Department of Allied Colloids, Bradford, West Yorkshire: process for production of vinylamine esters.

Clinical Reagents Division of Amerham International, Little Chalfont, Bucks: Amerlite laboratory diagnostic system (jointly with the Wolfson Research Laboratories of the Department of Clinical Medicine of the University of Birmingham).

The Implant Division of Applied Materials, Horsham, West Sussex: implantation equipment for semiconductor manufacture.

Applied Video Systems Ltd, AYS, Chessington, Surrey: conversion of TV signals between incompatible TV systems.

Bonus Machine Company, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear: high-speed electronic jacquard for broadcloth weaving.

Main Optical Networks Division (RT45) British Telecom, Research & Technology, Ipswich, Suffolk: optical receivers for undersea cable applications.

Chas A Blatchford & Sons, Basingstoke, Hampshire: lightweight lower extremity prosthetic limbs.

Croda Application Chemicals, Goole, North Humberside: Dirol CPS rolling oil.

Dowty Maritime Ocean Systems, Part of Dowty Maritime, Weymouth, Dorset: thermal linecan recorders.

Klometer Instruments, Droylsden, Manchester: microprocessor for controlling thickness gauges.

EM Electronics, Brockenhurst, Hampshire: ultra low-level DC voltage measurement.

Epichem, Wirral, Merseyside: metal organic precursors for semiconductor materials (jointly with The Electronics Materials Division of The Royal Signals and Radar Establishment).

Geos of Cambridge, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: Gamma image processing system.

Glaxo Group Research, Greenford, Middlesex: Cefazidime, an antibiotic.

Glencast, Leven, Fife: the Replicast process of producing high-quality castings (jointly

with Steel Castings Research and Trade Association).

GPT Telecommunications Systems Group (Switching Networks), Liverpool, Merseyside: System 2 telecommunication switching system.

The Technical Department of Gullick Dobson, Wigan, Greater Manchester: automated mine roof support system.

ICI Cellulose Diagnostics, Abingdon, Oxfordshire: DNA fingerprinting (jointly with The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine).

The Electrochemical Technology Business of ICI Chemicals & Polymers, Runcorn, Cheshire: membrane electrolyser for large-scale production of chemicals.

ICI Colours & Fine Chemicals, Blackley, Manchester: Benzodifuranone-based dyes.

ICI Retail Systems, Bracknell, Berks: point-of-sale checkout scanning system.

The Product Development Division of INMOS, Almondsbury, Bristol: design of parallel microprocessors (jointly with Oxford University Computing Laboratory).

J McLarty (Non Ferrous), Dunkirk, Nottingham: energy-saving unit for recycling aluminium scrap and waste.

The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, Sturmore, Middlesex: DNA fingerprinting (jointly with ICI Cellmark Diagnostics).

Automotive Division of Lucas Aerospace, Wolverhampton, West Midlands: geared rotary actuators for aircraft flap systems.

Lumaca, Rugby, Warwickshire: 1K 700 Series industrial laser system.

Micro Focus Group, Newbury, Berks: COBOL/2 work bench.

Mineral Industries Competing, London W1: software for mineral deposit evaluation.

NEI International Composites, Derby, Derbyshire: low NOx combustion in power station boiler.

The NERC ICP-MS Facility, Egham, Surrey: inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry system (jointly with VG Elemental).

Oxford University Computing Laboratory, Oxford, Oxfordshire: design of parallel microprocessors (jointly with The Product Development Division of INMOS).

Pearce, Bordon, Hampshire: solid state mono and colour CCD cameras.

Perkins Engines Group, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire: Prima direct injection high

speed diesel engine for cars and vans.

Philips Components Ltd, Warrington, Cheshire: advanced manufacturing techniques for TV deflection units.

Philips PZ, St Asaph, Chwyd: production process for fabrication of holographic optical elements.

Rushmore Metrology, Wootton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire: motorised probe heads incorporating patented kinematic location system.

The Design Engineering Group of Rolls-Royce, London SW1: aircraft engine noise-reduction technology (jointly with The Propulsion Department of The Royal Aerospace Establishment).

The Propulsion Department of The Royal Aerospace Establishment, Farnborough, Hampshire: aircraft engine noise reduction technology (jointly with The Design Engineering Group of Rolls-Royce).

The Electronic Materials Division of The Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, Malvern, Worcestershire: metal organic precursors for semiconductor materials (jointly with Epichem).

Serial Group, Broadstairs, Kent: photo stencil emulsions for screen printing.

The Flight Deck Display Systems Unit of the Cheltenham Division of Smiths Industries Aerospace and Defence Systems, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: advanced light-emitting diode display systems for commercial jet aircraft.

STC Semiconductor Systems, Gosworthey, London SE10: NL 420 mb/s submarine cable systems.

STC Technology, Harlow, Essex: bipolar and



AWARDS won by two members of Nottingham Metal Recyclers Group have delighted the Pownall household (Irene Pownall writes). Michael Pownall is chairman of J. McLarty (Non Ferrous), which gains a technology award for an energy-saving, environmentally efficient unit for recycling aluminium. His wife, Alison, is chairman of Dunkirk Metals, which has gained an exports award for

complementary metal oxide semiconductor devices in the same integrated circuit. Steel Castings Research and Trade Association, Sheffield, South Yorkshire: the Replicast process for producing high quality castings (jointly with Glencast).

The Wolfson Research Laboratories of the Department

of Chemical Medicine of the University of Birmingham, Birmingham, West Midlands: Amerlite laboratory diagnostic system (jointly with Clinical Reagents Division of Amerham International).

VG Elemental, Winsford, Cheshire: inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry

system (jointly with the NERC ICP-MS Facility).

The Wellcome Research Laboratories of the Wellcome Foundation, Beckenham, Kent: Retrovir for the treatment of HIV infection.

Yarrow Shipbuilders, Scotstoun, Glasgow: Type 23 frigate.

JG

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constantly strive to develop and improve our products. That's why we are now launching new Best Quality Ever Whiskas which is, quite simply, the best Whiskas yet.

We're proud of this development and determined to keep up the good work.

So who knows what awards await us with new Best Quality Ever Whiskas?



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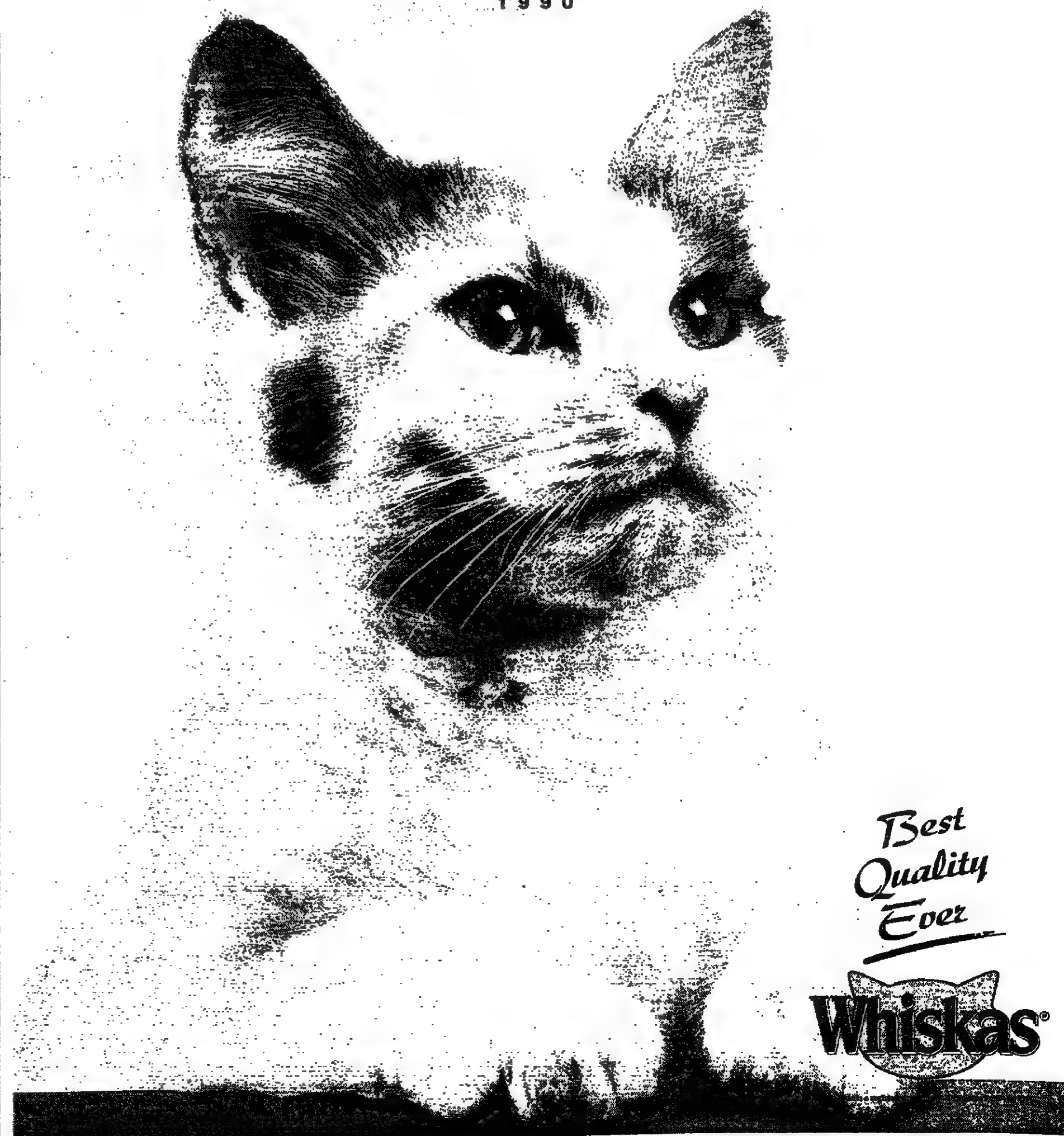
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THE QUEEN'S AWARDS/5

FOCUS

Workers' goodwill on wheels

How one company's employees marked their success with generosity, by Irene Farnsworth

The initiative for commemorating a Queen's Award win in an unusual way came from the workers at one of Britain's most successful exporting businesses. Shop stewards at ICI Pharmaceuticals in Macclesfield, Cheshire, suggested money should be used for the community, instead of being spent on individual mementoes for the work-force.

Last year, when the company celebrated its 13th award — the 10th for exports — two ambulances costing £28,000 were presented to Community Transport-Macclesfield Borough (CT-MB), a charity that operates transport services for elderly and disabled people.

"This was the first time such a generous public-spirited donation had been made and we are hoping that other companies will follow suit," Ken Burns, secretary to the

Queen's Awards Office, said. Employers usually show their gratitude by presenting employees with souvenir gifts. "We have tended to give employees a suitably inscribed memento, such as a silver pen or a wallet, to say, 'Well done, folks. Keep it up,'" said Dr David Parker, head of ICI Pharmaceuticals' public affairs department at Macclesfield. "Last year, a group of people put forward the broad suggestion of a worthwhile community project."

ICI Pharmaceuticals, Macclesfield's biggest employer with a staff of 4,500 people on two sites, exports to 120 destinations. Products include heart drugs, anti-cancer drugs, antiseptics and anaesthetics.

The company has always taken an interest in the community and has helped fund several projects. It wanted the staff proposal to be reflected in a project related to health care that was important to the community and visible so that everyone could feel proud of the gift.

At the same time as staff proposed doing something different about the Queen's Award, a retired employee, Matt Stevenson, who is treasurer of CT-MB, asked ICI for £1,000 towards the cost of repairs to keep an ambulance on the road.

"I cannot describe our surprise and delight when, after learning that we also had two worn-out vehicles to replace,

ICI said it would buy two new ambulances as gifts from their employees," said Paul Morgan, chairman of CT-MB.

He said the charity had been set up last year to take over transport services for the elderly and disabled in Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Knutsford. Cheshire County Council subsidizes some of the services, including Dial-a-Ride, but before getting the ICI ambulances, CT-MB had had difficulty in maintaining the service.

The new ambulances have the emblem of the Queen's Award for Export Achievement and the ICI roundel prominently displayed, as well as livery showing that they were donated by the employ-

ees of ICI Pharmaceuticals. The ambulances are on the road every day as a reminder of the notion, "by the people, for the people."

Mr Morgan, a retired engineering company managing director, said: "It just shows what good ideas come from the shop floor. We are highly indebted to ICI employees. I say this sincerely: if you show consideration to your employees, they respond and show consideration for each other and also for the community."

In the hope that the venture will be emulated by other recipients, the ICI project will be featured in the silver jubilee exhibition to be staged at the Design Centre in London and at regional centres.

The initiation by ICI Pharmaceuticals, the first of 2,688 winners to take such an imaginative step, is said to have delighted the Queen.



Precision work: son and father, Roger and Gilbert, at their south London factory

Brits who sell clocks to the Swiss

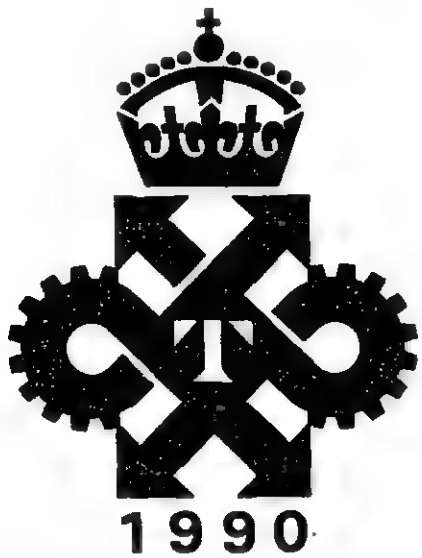
THREE generations of Glucks will celebrate the export award to Gluck Engineering with their 50 employees.

The company, now in Nunhead, south London, was founded in 1956 — in a garage — by Gilbert Gluck, the present managing director, and his father, Felix, now 94. He came from Switzerland 50 years ago when he was recruited by Smiths Industries.

Gluck Engineering makes mechanical chart drive clock mechanisms that operate in low temperatures and are used on large containers carrying perishable goods. It also manufactures precision turned commercial and domestic carriage clock movements. Its main markets are the United States, Europe, India and South-East Asia.

Although the company has always exported, it has been difficult to win orders against competition from Swiss, West German and French companies. But in the past 18 months annual turnover has doubled to £2 million.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY SHINES THROUGH



Smiths Industries Aerospace and Defence Systems is proud to receive the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for its EIS (Engine Instrument System).

Smiths Industries Aerospace Group at Cheltenham has won another significant commercial aerospace contract, being selected by British Aerospace to supply the Light Emitting Diode (LED) Engine Instrument System (EIS) for the new Jetstream 41. The contract, with spares, will be worth over \$22 million on up to 400 aircraft.

Similar equipment is currently fitted on the Boeing 737 - 300/400/500 series aircraft, the McDonnell Douglas MD80 series and the British Aerospace BAe 146. The equipment is fitted to over 260 aircraft and operated by some 54 airlines.

Also stand-by Engine Instrument Systems on the Boeing 757/767 have already been supplied for some 200 aircraft.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES
Aerospace & Defence Systems

Smiths Industries Aerospace and Defence Systems, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

A jumbo trade in new 'ivory'

LEIGH CHAPMAN became interested in technology that third-world countries could afford when he worked at Oxford. He decided he was in a similar position of needing to find "something you could mix in a bucket in a shed" when he wanted to start his own business 15 years ago.

With help from the head of a plastics company, he began making museum exhibits from resins. He has now cornered the market in synthetic ivory.

"Ivory is disappearing for good, so it is an obvious thing to reproduce," says Mr Chapman, managing director of History Craft, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. His company has now won an export award.

"We think it is a worthwhile thing if it takes pressure off the elephant," he says. "We are getting inquiries from companies that have used ivory and want an alternative."

History Craft, which started as a cottage industry, now has 40 employees and a £1.2 million turnover. It is the international market leader in cast-resin reproduction ivory figurines, which are highly mechanized and can produce two tons a week.

Its own products are mainly desktop items suitable as gifts for men. The figurines are sold extensively in North America, the Caribbean, Tahiti, and most of Europe. History Craft is now looking to Japan.

The company also supplies reproduction ivory to a large West German clock company and to the pewter industry for decorative panels.

Ivory has always been used for decorative and functional purposes and has a long cultural history, so Mr Chapman believes there will be a growing demand for reproduction ivory.

Irene Farnsworth

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The Governing Body and Staff of The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine are delighted and honoured to receive The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement, 1990 for the development of genetic fingerprinting. We would like to thank our Senior Research Fellow, Professor Alec Jeffreys, FRS, ICI Cellmark Diagnostics, the members of our Scientific Advisory Committee, and all others who have contributed to our success.



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THE QUEEN'S AWARDS/6

FOCUS

Stamp of pride for winners

Irene Farnsworth reports on the jubilee award and how to obtain it

The Queen's Award Office has been busy for more than a year organizing special events to celebrate the silver jubilee of the awards. Winners of the Queen's Awards for Export and Technology 1990 will get a specially commissioned wall plaque with the inscription "To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Queen's Awards Scheme 1966-1990" and bearing the crests of the awards scheme plus the words "Presented only to winners of Queen's Awards 1990".

The plaque can be displayed indefinitely because it is commemorative (winners of the Queen's Award are only allowed to use the emblem for publicity purposes for five years).

"It is going to be quite coveted," Ken Burns, secretary to the Queen's Awards Office, says.

The plaques were made last year at the Gateshead factory of Edward H. Thew, which specializes in chemical engraving on metal. The main business of the company, which is on the Queen's Awards Office list of approved suppliers, is inscribed, nameplates for machinery. But it has also handled commissions for plaques for special projects where unveiling ceremonies are often carried out by members of the Royal Family.

Winning the order for the silver

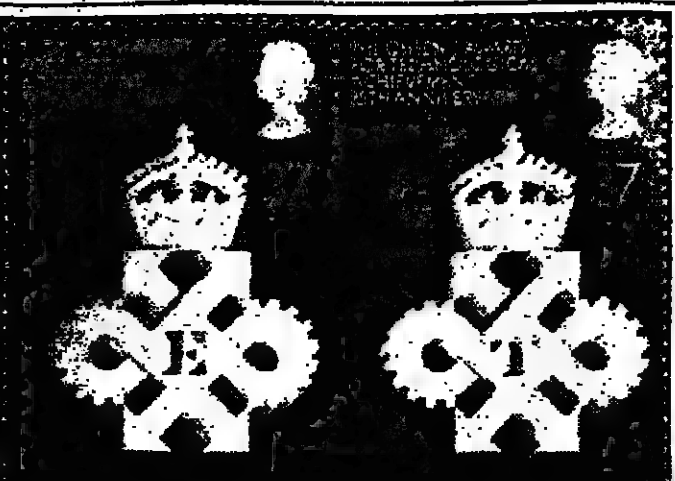


Seal of approval: Ken Burns "It is going to be quite coveted"

jubilee plaques was regarded as a coup. Margaret Rawlinson, the sales executive, says the company, which employs 40 people, was thrilled to be involved.

"Sadly, our sales manager at the time the order was negotiated, Allan Struthers, died suddenly on holiday last year, but as well as thinking of him, we will also be remembering with pride our contribution."

A commemorative plaque, featuring special-issue postage stamps, will also be presented to the 1990



The stamps: the work of London graphic designer Simon Broom

winners by the Royal Mail, which has produced a set of silver jubilee stamps to mark the 25th anniversary of the Queen's Awards.

The stamps, the work of London graphic designer Simon Broom, have been described as "a marvel of the hi-tech age". Mr Broom used a pioneering British computer graphic design system which enabled him to create complex artwork in a fraction of the normal time.

The system, called "Paintbox", was developed by the British company, Quamed Ltd, which won the Queen's Award for technological achievement in 1988. The four stamps in the special issue, two at 20p and two at 37p, bear the export and technology emblems of the Queen's Awards designed by Abram Games.

Although she is not a stamp collector, Jane Hoyle, who works in the Queen's Awards Office and was involved in the commissioning of the special plaques, made sure she

had a first day cover. "We have all been caught up in the excitement," she says.

The enthusiasm has also spilled over to the Design Centre in London's Haymarket, where an exhibition to mark the silver jubilee of the Queen's Awards is being mounted. It will open on July 18 and later travel to Manchester, Edinburgh and Swansea.

About 80 companies have been selected to take part in the exhibition. The companies picked include many winners of the Queen's Awards. The exhibition will show changes and developments in British industry.

The Design Council wants to emphasize that companies winning Queen's Awards range from those with half-a-dozen staff to giant corporations, such as ICI and GEC. It is trying to illustrate the diversity of British industry and also the role good design has played in the winning of Queen's Awards.

When the awards were first instituted, heavy industries were well represented. Then came the era of "sunrise industries". Traditional industries have been fighting back recently. An encouraging aspect of the Queen's Awards has been the achievements of small firms in winning a high proportion of the awards.

When it pays to blow your own trumpet

Self-promotion is everything in the competition for a Queen's Award. The first move has to come from aspiring companies or organizations. They have to make the approach to be considered for an award. The application form is the only platform on which to describe a performance to be considered for industry's supreme accolade.

Recognizing this, the Queen's Awards Office has gone to great lengths to simplify the form, substituting plain English for official jargon. The application form was given a facelift for 1990 with the aim of making it easier to understand and complete.

The Queen's Awards Office sought the help of the winner of a "best official form" competition to improve the layout and text of the application form.

An Inland Revenue employee, Mike Forster, who produced the best official form — an income tax return form — was called in to help revise and improve the Queen's Awards application form.

"He was very helpful and came up with some good ideas," said Ken Burns, secretary to the Queen's Awards Office.

Considering about 1,500 applications have to be sifted through, limiting the claim for an award to a few well-chosen words is vital, Mr Burns says.

Accuracy is, of course, essential. References might be called in to check on the correctness and relevance of claims made. Verification of figures by an auditor may also be called for. But the application form offers a chance to communicate more than the bare facts about achievements. Fifth words to be put on the bones. Questions should be analysed to get a clear perception of what the adjudicating panel is looking for. Answers need to be carefully thought out so that the fullest picture possible is given.

British Coal's technical department headquarters in Staffordshire, winners of five awards in 22 years for technological achievement, learnt to curb its enthusiasm and

"It has got to be the total pitch; you have to give the application your best shot"

not rush in an application for a Queen's Award the minute it was discovered the potential of research findings.

Initially, the department looked for some highly innovative "breaking the frontiers of science in the mining field" project. But what the judges want to know is whether the expected benefits have materialized. The department found that in the technological achievements sector, it was not the novelty of innovation that was being looked for. So it had to switch its time-scale.

The department looks at something that has been a huge success in research and exploitation and asks

if it has had successful applications of the new technology in production. Benefits in financial or other terms should be able to be defined.

"What they are most interested in is the benefits accruing rather than the technology *per se*," Dr David Buchanan, head of research, says. "You have got to demonstrate the commercial return. Certainly a lot of effort has to go into the application form. It is not something you can finish in an afternoon."

Carl Courtney, managing director of ICAS, a Hertfordshire-based public relations consultancy, has helped four clients who have won exports awards to present their cases. He says that as a consultant it was possible to stand back and appraise all the factors that contributed to a company excelling in exports.

ICAS sifts through masses of information and decides how it can best be related to the questions on the application form. Getting the arithmetic absolutely right is para-

mount. "Never say approximately: the golden rule is to give precise figures," Mr Courtney says.

He has found some applicants completely neglect the graphic picture and do not think to send in good photographs, charts or graphs. "It has got to be the total pitch; you have to give the application your best shot," he says. "You do not have the opportunity to go in front of the awards panel, so the answers to the questions have to make people fully conversant with what you are about."

If your organization is convinced it has an unrivalled record in exports or has been responsible for a technical breakthrough with proven commercial benefits, the first move is to telephone or write to the Queen's Awards Office for an application form.

Closing date for the annual competition is October 31. The address is: Queen's Awards Office, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG (telephone 01-222 2277).



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to the bank

Peter Waymark

After a gap of seven years Brass (Channel 4, 8.30pm) is back with a new series and in sparkling form. It was created by former *Coronation Street* writers John Stevenson and Julian Roach, as a comic antidote to those earnest north-country industrial dramas where people keep saying "my lass" and "my lad" and "trouble at the mill" is no laughing matter. This subversion of genre was embellished with a riot of puns, parodies and quotations. Bringing the action forward to September 1939 has enabled Stevenson and Roach to draw on the received folklore of the Second World War and this promises to be a rich vein. The jokes are well up to standard and Timothy West's Bradley Hardacre, licking his lips at the prospect of profits for his armaments companies, continues to be all the funnier for being a comic echo of the heartless northern capitalist West has often played for real.

A comic echo: Timothy West's
Bradley Hardacre (Ch4, 8.30pm)

Cutting Edge: Against My Nature (Channel 4, 9.00pm) is a sympathetic portrait of Michael Brooks, a sufferer from Tourette's Syndrome, a rare disease which reveals itself in a compulsion to destroy. He sheds clothes, tears blankets and breaks windows and no drugs or therapy have been able to help him. Although a brutal father and clinging mother suggest that his trouble has psychological roots, specialists are convinced that the condition is organic and as a last throw to brain surgery. The film charts Brooks' path to hoped-for recovery, helped by an amazingly patient but increasingly pessimistic friend.

Blackbox (BBC2, 4.45pm) visits Europe and the United States to round up the latest scientific research into the social organization of bees and ants. It suggests that these highly organized insect societies, with their commitment to co-operation and democracy, might have lessons for the human species. The argument is illustrated with superb close-up photography which reveals far more than the naked eye ever could.

In an edition to coincide with the latest House of Commons debate on abortion, *West in Action* (ITV, 8.30pm) suggests that contraceptive pills are less effective than they are made out to be. A new study shows that the majority of women who have had abortions were attempting to use forms of contraception when they became pregnant. An expert, Dr Bruce Voeller, tries to explain why.

ITV LONDON

6.00 *Coast*
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with
Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando.
Includes regular news,
essentials, business reports, sports
bulletins, regional news, weather
and travel information. Anthony
Howard reviews the morning
newspapers. 6.55 *Regional news*
and weather.

6.00 *News and weather* followed by
Open Air. Viewers comment on the
weekend's television. To
contribute ring Jayne Irving on 081
814 0424.

6.30 *Gladiators*. A new series of
topical interviews, discussions and
audience participation, hosted by
Gloria Hunniford.

10.00 *News and weather* followed by
Matchpoint. Quiz in which the
scoring resembles that of a tennis
match. Presented by Angela Ripston.

10.25 *Children's BBC*, introduced by
Simon Parris, begins with *Playdays*
(10.25) *Jimbo* and *The Jettons*.

10.55 *News To Eleven*. Zia Moynihan
reads extracts describing the Muslim
festival of Ramadan.

11.00 *News and weather* followed by
Open Air. Viewers comment on last
night's television. A GPO
documentary made in 1939 which
compares life on the islands of
Eriskay, Guernsey and Inner Farne.

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documentary made in 1939 which
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BBC 2

7.10 *Open University: Gibbon - The
Ruins of Rome*. Ends at 7.35
8.00 *News at 8.15 Westminster*
8.30 *First: Dance, Girl, Dance* (1949,
b/w). This first of a short Lucie Ball
season is a light musical about
two burlesque dancers who fall for
the same man. With Maureen
O'Hara and Louis Hayward. Directed
by Dorothy Arzner.

10.25 *World Snooker*. Quarter-final
action from the Embassy World
Professional championship.
1.30 *Green Glens*. For the young (r)
1.35 *World Snooker*. David Vine and
Bill Wicks present more snooker
coverage from today's quarter-
finals. Includes news and weather at
2.00, 3.00 and 3.30.

6.30 *DEF II begins with That Was Then
This Is Now*. A probing interview with
Clash guitarist and part-founder
Mick Jones who reveals his version
of the band's demise. Includes
original footage of the Clash and
video of Jones with his latest
band, Big Audio Dynamite. 6.50 *Nigel
Kennard - The Four Seasons*.

7.40 *Italian Rap: Cookery*.
Valentina Harris visits north-west
Italy to sample Lombardy's
legendary dairy products. Milan's
fascinated food courtiers
and Piedmont, the epicure's
paradise, abundant in fine wines,
chocolate and truffles. (Ceefax)

8.10 *Horizon: The Concept of Art*.
And *Bees*. (Ceefax) (see Choice)
8.00 *World Snooker*. It's day two of the
quarter-finals of the Embassy World
Professional snooker championship.

8.30 *Water's Edge*. Contemporary
drama with Dudley Sutton and Liza
Roberts who discover the loss of
childhood and innocence when they
find the body of a Second World
War pilot in the village pond.

10.30 *Newsnight*.
11.15 *World Snooker*. David Vine
reports on the quarter-finals from the
Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

11.55 *Newsnight*.
12.00 *Newsnight: Arts Foundation
Course*. Ends at 12.30am.

1.00 *News at One* with John Suchet.
Weather 1.20 *News* and
1.30 *World Snooker*. Quarter-final
action from the Embassy World
Professional snooker championship.

2.00 *News at Two* with John Suchet.
Weather 2.20 *News* and
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action from the Embassy World
Professional snooker championship.

3.00 *News at Three* with John Suchet.
Weather 3.20 *News* and
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4.00 *News at Four* with John Suchet.
Weather 4.20 *News* and
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5.00 *News at Five* with John Suchet.
Weather 5.20 *News* and
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6.00 *News at Six* with John Suchet.
Weather 6.20 *News* and
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7.00 *News at Seven* with John Suchet.
Weather 7.20 *News* and
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8.00 *News at Eight* with John Suchet.
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9.00 *News at Nine* with John Suchet.
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11.00 *News at Eleven* with John Suchet.
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12.00 *News at Midnight* with John Suchet.
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CHANNEL 4

6.00 *The Art of Landscape*. The
beauty of the natural world set to
music.
6.30 *The Channel 4 Daily*
9.25 *The Partnership Programme*. This
series of programmes will cover the
work of the Select and Standing
Committees, focusing today on the
Trade and Industry committee
and its investigations into the sale of
the Rover Car company.
12.00 *Time To Remember (b/w)*. 1940
and the Battle of Britain (r)

1.30 *Green Glens*. For the young (r)
1.35 *World Snooker*. David Vine and
Bill Wicks present more snooker
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BUSINESS

SECTION 2

MONDAY APRIL 23 1990

City Editor
John Bell

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6360 (-0.0075)

W German mark
2.7616 (+0.0129)

Exchange index
87.2 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1712.6 (-28.4)

FT-SE 100
2187.1 (-35.5)

USM (Datastream)
137.75 (-3.07)

European Leisure offer final

EUROPEAN Leisure has declared its bid for Midsummer Leisure final and not to be increased "in any circumstances" after the Midsummer board's abrupt volte-face last week in response to the bidder's falling share price.

The market at Friday's close apparently gave the offer — a mix of new European Leisure equity and convertible preference shares with a partial cash alternative — little chance of success. It is worth 154p, against a price in the market for Midsummer of 118p.

Baroness Williams, European Leisure chairman, was still confident. "I think at this stage the price, as in the past, have been much influenced by the confusion and uncertainty on the part of many institutions and other shareholders of what's in the minds of the Midsummer board."

A document went out over the weekend to shareholders in Midsummer, which started out as the quoted arm of the Campaign for Real Ale but has since diversified into snooker and disco, claiming last week's rejection after initial agreement, was "unconvincing."

Camford claim under attack
MARKHEATH Securities, the property group that is expected to raise its £64 million bid for Camford Engineering this week, has hit out at the valuation firming part of its quarry's defence.

Markheath has commissioned a valuation, from St Quintin, the chartered surveyor, claiming Camford's site in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, is worth £15 million — £10.5 million less than Camford's own independent valuation.

Markheath is offering 305p a share, against a 331p market value at Friday's close.

Brierley facing Vickers defeat

SIR Ron Brierley, the New Zealand businessman, faces apparent defeat in his bid to force the demerger of the Rolls-Royce cars business from Vickers, in which he has a 19 per cent stake.

Shareholders will vote on the demerger plan at Thursday's annual meeting. Indications are that Sir Ron will be heavily defeated. Shareholders are also likely to vote through the £163 million purchase by Vickers last month of Cosworth, the high-performance car engine producer, which Sir Ron also opposes.

Victaulic wins pipes contract

VICTAULIC, the plastic pipe and fittings manufacturer, has signed a three-year contract with British Gas to supply it with polyethylene pipes. The contract will protect Victaulic's share of British Gas's demand for piping, but at a cost of lower profits.

The news was announced at the annual meeting, held on Saturday to allow its 500 employee shareholders to attend. A 100 did and passed the resolutions unanimously.

Mr David Winch, the chairman, said first quarter sales were well ahead of last year.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.58	2.59
Belgium Fr	20.20	20.20
Canada C\$	61.10	61.10
Denmark Kr	11.04	11.04
Finland Mk	5.94	5.94
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.36	2.37
Greece Dr	280	282
Hong Kong \$	10.45	10.45
India Rupee	1.04	1.04
Italy Lira	2120	2120
Japan Yen	163.60	163.60
Netherlands Gld	3.22	3.24
Norway Kr	11.28	11.28
Portugal Esc	4.80	4.80
Spain Ptas	166.00	166.00
Sweden Kr	7.46	7.46
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.25
Turkey Lira	4340	4340
USA \$	1.72	1.72
Yugoslavia Dinar	13.60	13.60

Notes for special destination bank rates only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to remittance charges.

Parity Price Index: 1214 (March)

Atlantic books criticized before B&C bid

By Alexander Paisley and Martin Walker

ATLANTIC Computers, the computer leasing group placed in the hands of administrators last week by British & Commonwealth Holdings, its parent, had come under fire for its accounting policies before Mr John Gunn, the B&C chief executive, made his ill-fated £416-million bid for the company.

According to Sir Peter Thompson, the B&C chairman, Atlantic's disastrous performance stems from the company's "imprudent and optimistic" accounting policies. In particular, he cites Atlantic's policy of writing lease profits into its books at the front end of the lease, rather than as they arose during the lease's life — and for having insufficient reserves to cover its residual liabilities. But investigations by

The Times have uncovered that the way Atlantic accounted for its leases had been criticized before B&C bid for the company in 1988.

Mr Paul Rittenman, an Ernst & Young partner and a leading architect of SSAP21, the accounting standard devised specifically to improve companies' accounting for leasing, said the techniques used by Atlantic and others like it had been criticized for taking profit up-front based on risky assumptions of residual equipment values. He said: "The residual values are based on tables for equipment published in the US. They have two problems — one, they are based on US data, and two, a lot of the information in them is based just on what companies are telling them, not necessarily the actual prices equipment is

fetching in the market." After a study conducted for the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICA) in 1985, Mr Rittenman was extremely vocal on the treatment of taking too much profit up-front.

According to Mr Rittenman, Atlantic reported that it had changed its accounting policy by the year before the B&C takeover bid, but the final position is likely to emerge from the administrators' investigations.

Either way, Atlantic's demise has highlighted a gap in the industry's accounting standards — a gap which the ICA was trying to close before its plans for a research project into residual value accounting were shelved due to underfunding. Proposals for a new study were due to be

examined this month by the ICA and the Equipment Leasing Association. The green light for research into the scale of the problems brought to light by Atlantic now looks certain.

Meanwhile, B&C starts £200 million proceedings in the High Court tomorrow against Quadrex, the money broking business run by Mr Gary Klesch, the American businessman.

But the court case, likely to be lengthy, will be overshadowed by developments on the Atlantic Computers front which could push B&C into receivership.

Some observers, who have seen most of B&C's net worth swallowed up by the Atlantic affair, with £550 million written off and possibly another £200 million yet to go, see the case against Mr Klesch as one

of the company's most important assets. It arises out of failure by Quadrex, in February 1988, to acquire, for £280 million, M&W Marshall and William Street, the wholesale broking businesses of Mercantile House, bought by B&C the previous year. Mr Gunn is suing for breach of contract. Quadrex had considered bidding for Mercantile House, but in the event, the B&C purchase included an agreement with Mr Klesch for him to buy the two businesses.

The deal fell apart when the banks which agreed to finance it failed to come up with the money. Mr Klesch is countering B&C, accusing the management of the two businesses of obstruction and B&C of failing to use its best endeavours to find an alternative buyer.

Industry fear of surge in wage claims

By Colin Nield and Derek Harris

THE spectre of stagflation is alarming industry chiefs.

They fear sharply rising inflation and stagnant growth will lead to a temporary surge in wage claims, permanently impairing industry's cost structure and threatening exports, jobs and investment.

Confederation of British Industry Pay Databank figures, out today, show settlements in manufacturing industry continuing to outpace improvements in productivity, confirming the disturbing trend shown in government data last week.

Disciplinary salary rises last year were the highest for 10 years, according to another study, also released today. Middle managers did not do quite as well, but both face tougher times this year, according to the management salary survey from the British Institute of Management.

The CBI figures show that in the first quarter of this year, pay settlements in manufacturing are estimated to have averaged 8.5 per cent, up from 8.1 per cent in the previous quarter.

Productivity growth slowed to an annual rate of 6.5 per cent in the first quarter, from 7 per cent in the final quarter of last year — its fourth consecutive quarterly decline.

Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said the

position was worsening at a critical period in the run-up to the single European market.

"If pay does not reflect performance, our current export achievements will inevitably be aborted, with serious consequences for future jobs, investment and inflation," said Mr Banham.

Manufacturing companies reporting to the CBI have become more optimistic, now anticipating an improvement of 6.7 per cent in productivity in the year ahead, after having only expected 5.7 per cent in the last quarterly report.

Alarm about continuing upward pressures on pay, despite the economic slowdown and the prospect of an early return to rising unemployment, was boosted by Friday's announcement that 70,000 blue-collar power industry workers have voted to strike after rejecting an 8.5 per cent pay offer.

Mr Chris Dillow, UK economist at Nomura Securities, sees the pay situation worsening as retail price inflation rises towards a peak above 10 per cent in August.

The most fearful forecasters expect the inflation rate to stay above 10 per cent almost to the end of the year, suggesting little scope for lower interest rates.

The CBI said the decline shown by its figures in productivity growth is not as sharp as aggregated official figures but still provides more evidence of a "worrying gap" between

pay and performance that will push up unit labour costs.

With output remaining static and industry expecting productivity to grow at 6.7 per cent over the coming year, a "sharp fall" in manufacturing employment is implied.

The BIM survey said directors' basic salaries are expected to increase by 10 per cent this year, but, given performance-related benefits, total earnings are expected to be affected by a profits squeeze. An 8.75 per cent total earnings rise is forecast, indicating only a 1.2 per cent rise in real earnings, allowing for inflation.

This follows last year's 14.3 per cent rise in earnings — 6.1 per cent in real terms — which has brought directors' average earnings to £39,636.

Further down the hierarchy, earnings are expected to increase by about 9 per cent this year, although there is a warning of a "significant" slowing in the autumn if the retail price index falls as predicted. Last year, middle managers saw pay rises of 11.5 per cent bringing average earnings before tax to £26,296. It means real earnings rose 3.4 per cent.

Mr Peter Beston, BIM director general, said: "I am worried by the widening differential between managers' and directors' earnings. To avoid criticism, directors must be seen to earn their increases and to provide value to their companies."

Flymo's short cut to more profit

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

THE chairman of Electrolux's British operations, Mr Jimmy James, is more golfer than gardener but recent rain has made him smile.

It is strictly for business reasons, for while Electrolux is best known for white goods — from freezers to dishwashers — it has interests in other sectors, one being Flymo, the lawn mower manufacturer.

When drought sets in, grass almost stops growing. Mr Les Evans, Flymo managing director, said: "It's what everybody in the trade dreads. People buy new mowers because their old one gives trouble. Drought virtually wipes out distress sales."

Electrolux is looking to its non-white goods sectors to produce a big proportion of its British profits.

Mr James said: "The proportion of turnover coming from non-white goods interests is 40 per cent and I would like to see it nearer a half. This year, these non-kitchen areas have been responsible for much of our profit."

A bigger assembly plant, operating with an injection moulding factory turning out plastic mower bodies, is part of a £7 million investment programme at Flymo.

Mr Evans said: "We have increased capacity by 50 per cent. This should be taken up by increased exports to continental Europe."

Food service equipment is seeing a 15 per cent average annual growth in Britain as consumers continue to eat out more and sustain the catering boom, according to Mr Eric Stevens, managing director of the food services equipment division.

The two British subsidiaries in this sector are Scott Benham, making fryers and ovens, and Crypto Fearless, maker of mixers to automatic bread butters.



In good trim: Jimmy James uses a Flymo mower in the garden of his Luton home

Globe says Coal funds bid after confidential briefing

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

GLOBE, Britain's largest investment trust which is facing a £1.03 billion bid from British Coal pension funds, will meet its legal and financial advisers today to decide what action to take about the funds' acquisition of a 5 per cent block of shares last week.

The trust's management, led by Mr David Hardy, the chairman, is angry that the shares were bought from Standard Life immediately after a confidential briefing to discuss the trust's performance.

The purchase took the funds' stake to 33.9 per cent and triggered a full bid under the Takeover Code.

Today's meeting, with Barings, the merchant banker,

and Linklaters & Paines, the solicitor, will decide whether Globe will complain to the authorities about the share transaction.

Globe spokesmen say that, at the briefing, Mr Hardy gave Dr Paul Whitney, the funds' head of investment, privileged details of the trust's performance in its year to March. Globe's preliminary figures were not going to be made public until May 15, but they will now be released before the end of the month.

One spokesman said: "It's the normal thing you do with major institutional investors. Normally, the recipient does not deal on this information."

However, the funds' deny

the briefing had any bearing on their intention to bid.

Dr Whitney did not mention the bid to Mr Hardy, even though Standard Life says it had held two weeks of talks with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the funds' broker, to sell the stake.

The fund said it would have been inappropriate to discuss the bid at the time.

The price of 191p a share was finally agreed on shortly before the market closed on Thursday, and Standard will receive the £51.1 million payment today. Globe has already requested the Stock Exchange to investigate possible insider dealing in its shares in the two weeks before the bid.

Norton tells of 'counter bid' to fight BTR

From John Durie
New York

NORTON has raised the possibility of a counter bid in the \$1.6 billion bid by BTR for control of the Massachusetts ceramics producer.

In a Securities and Exchange Commission filing late on Friday, Norton said an unidentified company was approached to take a minority stake. Later the other party said it would take full control, but Norton rejected this.

The statement came after the market closed with Norton shares at \$74.75, below BTR's \$75 share bid price for the first time in recent weeks.

A spokesman for Norton declined to elaborate on the statement and said it was released because the company thought it was the proper thing to do.

Caspar aims to be a hit at BBC

From Melinda Whitstock
Cannes

CASPAR, the Friendly Ghost, Richie Rich and Baby Huey have long been as famous as Batman and Bugs Bunny in the US, and so they will be in Britain if Mr Jeffrey Montgomery, aged 25, gets his way.

The Californian film school graduate turned entrepreneur recently beat off competition from the likes of Walt Disney and Warner Brothers to buy Harvey Publications, an American comic book and animation company that had fallen on hard times in the 1980s after the death of Alfred Harvey, who founded the company in 1942 at the age of 26.

Bought for \$8 million last summer, Harvey, which boasts a film library of 248 cartoons, is now worth more than \$20 million, said Mr Montgomery, who is reviving the private company's fortunes with two Hollywood film deals, a television cartoon series, updated comic books, videos, merchandise and an agreement to animate New Kids on the Block, the American pop group.

In Cannes for the MIP-TV Festival, Mr



Meet Caspar, the Friendly Ghost

Montgomery said he was close to signing a deal with the BBC for the television series, thanks to the help of HIT Communications, the British media group, which has bought the television and video distribution rights to the Harvey library outside the US for seven years. HIT, 20 per cent owned by Flextech, the oil services company, will take 40 per cent of the gross in all deals, said Mr Peter Orton, the founder of HIT, which also distributes *Spring Image* worldwide. HIT is also holding talks with Mr Montgomery over the merchandising rights.

Having spent \$1 million revitalizing the cartoons and comics, Harvey is forecast to increase its revenue from \$3 million last year to more than \$15 million in 1990, excluding revenue from

the New Kids deal, which will bring in \$1 million a month in comic book sales alone. Harvey has also increased its US market share from 1.5 per cent to more than 5 per cent since Mr Montgomery took over with the backing of "several wealthy London-based investors." During its heyday, spanning the three decades ending in the Sixties, it enjoyed a 25 per cent market share.

Its comic book circulation in the US has risen from 1.5 million copies a year to about 12 million, with *Richie Rich* maintaining its lead as the biggest seller. Mr Montgomery said: "Intellectual property may be one of most undervalued and least understood assets... but if you buy correctly, these assets are as secure as real estate holdings. Columbia earned \$5.4 billion last year, but it was sold for \$20 billion — that's about 500 times earnings."

Meanwhile, Harvey will release *Caspar*, a \$35 million animated film, next year, to be followed by a similar film, based on *Richie Rich*, on a \$30 million budget.

Television takeover, page 31

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TEMPUS

New-look Greenall due for a rally

NOW that it is no longer so easy to spot the brewery shares in the brewery sector, it should not perhaps come as any great surprise to discover that some ratings have slipped markedly out of synch.

None more so, it seems, than Greenall Whitley, whose shares have slithered all the way back from 370p to below 310p since pulling up flatish results a week before Christmas.

The under-performance reflects a degree of disquiet over the group's relative vulnerability to current high interest rates and some concern that the management might have been tempted by Embassy Hotels, now spoken for by John Jarvis. Last year's £24.6 million interest bill was, after all, covered only 3.6 times.

In selling its Vladimir Vodka brand to Whyte & Mackay for £26 million earlier this month, and in separating its brewery operations from the pubs and engaging in talks with Labatt, and, it is thought, Carlsberg, Greenall has, however, given more than a pointer to how it sees its own future.

Though it still ranks as the largest of the regional brewers, it is primarily as a retailer that Greenall enters the 1990s. De Vere Hotels, managed pubs and budget accommodation earn two-thirds of the profits and claim four-fifths of the capital spend.

Even if the breweries fetched only £60 million — a low figure, but this is hardly a sellers' market just now — these disposals would make a substantial hole in the £164 million 1989 net debt figure. And both would be earnings-enhancing.

In the event that no buyer can be found, the beer and public houses businesses should be capable of contributing a 10 per cent profit increase towards a pre-tax total of £60 million this year, against £52 million previously. BZW and Robert Fleming

both look for earnings approaching 32p a share, indicating a p/e of less than 10.

At 614p a share, net assets are worth virtually twice the share price, and most of the bigger pubs and The Belfry are reckoned to be under-valued in the books. While the net debt position may not begin to improve before 1991, unless the breweries go, the shares are at the bottom end of their trading range, look cheap against the sector, and, at 311p, could be overdue a rally.

Parkfield

WHEN a share price tumbles in four months from 518p to 314p — in virtually a straight line — the obvious questions are: Why? Is the fall over?

Parkfield Group, under Mr Roger Felber, its chairman — now within days of its April year end — is the share in question. The two principal divisions embrace manufacturing and entertainment. It makes castings and wheels; it makes films and distributes and merchandises video.

Parkfield came from nowhere in 1981 when the share price was an equivalent 2p, hit a high of 512p in January and now the market has fallen out of love with it.

Why? Because of trade and later market gossip that over Christmas, Parkfield's video operations had stumbled over marketing problems. Far from living up to its claim that it could fulfil 95 per cent of customer video requirements, order deliveries slipped to no better than 75 per cent.

The market had its nerves further frayed when in February the director of the entertainment division, Mr Peter Feldman, resigned.

The answer to the second question — is the share fall over? — must remain unanswered until figures are to hand. But market thoughts are that year-end figures will not



Parkfield's figures could confound the gossip: Roger Felber, the chairman

be bad, that they will — as expected — show year-on-year growth, and that there will be further profits progress in the 1991 financial year.

In the six months ended October, Parkfield turned out pre-tax profits of £13.9 million (£6.8 million), which included £3.6 million of asset and investment sales, and raised the interim dividend from 3p to 5p a share.

For the year, pre-tax profits could be between £34 million

and £35 million (which presupposes £5 million of other operating income), compared with £22.2 million (including £712,000 of other income) previously.

Profits could rise further to £42 million in 1991. In its 1985 year, Parkfield turned in profits of a mere £375,000, so there now comes the time when the market wonders if the profits rocket will run out of steam.

At current levels, the

prospective p/e ratio is 8.7, which eases to 6.4 on 1991 profit hopes.

It needs just one fund manager to believe that the fall has been overdone — and the fall will have been overdone.

British Steel

AMID the gloom overhauling the economy, British Steel privatized in December, 1988,

at 125p a share, and now standing at 139½ — has found a fan. Salomon Brothers, the US investment house, suggests the market is taking too harsh a view of prospects by rating the shares at little more than half the market average price/earnings ratio and with a dividend yield premium of 64 per cent to the market.

After an interim report showing pre-tax profits up 57 per cent to £423 million — well above market expectations — signs are still set on profits of £730 million (£593 million) for the recently completed full year to end-March.

The investment debate still rages about the size of the expected profit fall in 1990-1991 when British Steel is likely to face a higher tax rate.

Salomon suggests the cushion from cost-cutting measures has been under-estimated, though it still pencils in a drop to £590 million pre-tax in 1990-91. British Steel remains one of the world's lowest cost producers (profitability per ton in the first half at £56 was the best in its history).

Three-quarters of turnover is also sensitive to the mark exchange rate. A crude estimate of currency effects suggests that a 10 per cent drop in the sterling/mark rate could boost British Steel's profits by between £100 million and £200 million.

At 139½p, the shares sell at 4.9 times earnings for the year just ended, with a likely dividend yield of 7.9 per cent. On Salomon's forecast, the p/e would rise to only 6.1 on the 1990-91 figures.

While sceptical British investors may dither, US investors are being told that British Steel is at a 10 per cent discount to Bethlehem Steel and a 43 per cent to Inland Steel, while German investors are being reminded that British Steel is at a 45 per cent discount to Thyssen AG.

Edited by John Bell

GILT-EDGED

Return of bad old days poses greater threat than Labour

Should the market worry about a Labour government? The US Administration seems to be taking the prospect of a Labour victory in the next general election quite seriously. So it is no wonder investors are also beginning to contemplate that possibility.

The market's natural prejudice is to sell the prospect of a Labour government. Hence the Conservatives' poor performance in the opinion polls is being cited as one of the main reasons for recent declines in gilt prices. There is a feeling that Labour would be bad for the pound, bad for inflation and bad for public borrowing. That all adds up to a scenario which would be bad for gilts.

Looking at the performance of different regimes, there is some evidence for this view. For example, the previous Labour administration, from March 1974 to May 1979, presided over the highest post-war inflation rates, a tripling of public borrowing and a 40 per cent devaluation of the pound against the mark. The real return on gilts was negative.

But can we be certain things would have been much different had the Conservatives been in power? In Labour's defence, it inherited a pretty awful situation and had to contend with the effects of the oil price shock of 1973, which led to higher inflation throughout the OECD.

At the beginning of 1974, inflation was more than 12 per cent and the balance of payments was in deficit. By end-1978, inflation was down to 8 per cent and the balance of payments back in the black. Unfortunately for Labour, it looks set to inherit just as awful a situation this time.

The greatest risk of a Labour victory for gilts is the likelihood of a sharp fall in the pound. Sterling has had a Thatcher premium built into it. And although this may now have gone, there is still a Conservative premium in the pound. Overseas investors have been saying they would not mind Mrs Thatcher's departure if it were to improve the Conservatives' electoral chances.

To combat the exchange-rate problem, Labour has committed itself to early entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS. Whether, and when, a Conservative government led by Mrs Thatcher would take Britain into the ERM is still unclear — there have been reports that Downing Street has condoned renewed criticism of the ERM by Sir Alan Walters.

Some have argued that the commitment to ERM could play a very important role in constraining other aspects of Labour economic policy. The way the Socialist government in France succeeded in bringing down inflation is used to support the argument.

However, two things must be remembered about this comparison.

First, there were several devaluations of the franc during the first two Mitterrand years. Only when it looked as if France was going to be forced out of the ERM did the government make a positive commitment and a similar process could take place here. Secondly, it was not ERM alone which reduced inflation in France — wage and price controls, public spending cuts and tax increases were also employed.

At this stage, Labour's intended policies are still under wraps, but a "campaign document" is to be published next month. We doubt it will make any mention of wage and price controls.

It certainly will not talk about public spending cuts — quite the reverse. There will be mention of some tax increases, but these will be insufficient to scare Tory defectors and, therefore, insufficient to stop public borrowing rising again under Labour.

Of course, the next general election is still some way off, and then, other things will grab the market's attention.

The next few weeks look especially difficult. In the first place, bond yields seem to be on a rising trend worldwide. In the US, there are worries about prospects for the bond auction scheduled for the second week of May and the possibility that a weak yen will cause Japanese investors to stay away.

Meanwhile in Germany there is the likelihood that IG Metall will call strikes when the cooling-off period finishes at the end of the month. And Chancellor Kohl is in a rush to finalize the details and timetable for currency union before the East German local authority elections on May 6.

The British market also has local authority elections to worry about and the likelihood that the next set of inflation figures will break through 9 per cent.

The power workers' ballot in favour of strike action presents a conundrum for the Government.

A double digit award would be inflationary, but strike action could have repercussions on electricity privatization, scheduled for the autumn, and hence on the PSDR. Industrial unrest in other quarters is on the cards and the dispute over the community charge continues.

Overseas investors are becoming afraid that Britain is slipping back into the bad old days. Which, if true, would make a change in government the least of the market's problems.

Glenn Davies
Chief Economist
Credit Lyonnais
Securities

US NOTEBOOK

Credit crisis threatens core of banking system

THE threat of a Moody's downgrade of Citibank debt and commercial paper signals the growing disintegration of the American credit structure.

Banks are fearful of lending and are cutting back on outstanding corporate and personal loans.

Corporations have turned increasingly to the commercial paper market for working capital, but here too, events are producing the beginnings of a shutdown of what has been the most vibrant source of credit in the past two years.

In the middle of this crisis is the booming money market mutual fund industry of America.

The surprise announcement last week that Moody's was considering downgrading \$31 billion of Citibank debt, including its commercial paper, could add to the fear of making loans that is spreading rapidly through the US commercial banking system.

The ratings agencies are downgrading more and more commercial bank debt. The Citibank threat is merely the biggest and potentially most devastating.

In a way, the bond market, ratings agencies and regulators are doing the Fed's work for it by undermining the ability and willingness of commercial banks to grant loans.

The Fed lost (or consciously relinquished) control of the cash base of the US system last October. From then until April, the monetary base has risen at the extraordinary rate of 7.3 per cent. There is no prospect of inflation being reduced while this rate of expansion is allowed to continue.

So this explosion of the

monetary base is very bad news for bonds and the dollar.

The boom in monetary base growth has been matched by the rapid growth of M2. Since October, M2 has risen at an annual rate of 6 per cent. (Between December 1988 and October 1989, M2 grew at a modest rate of 4.3 per cent.)

From December 1989 until April, M2 grew at an annual rate of just under 5 per cent.

So there is hope that M2 expansion is being brought under control. At least, it is now well below the top of the Fed's range for 1990 of 7 per cent.

Excessive money growth has in turn produced rising commodity prices and falling bond prices.

But the structural problems of the American property market are causing such havoc with banks' balance sheets that they are holding down on new loans and are investigating (or being forced by their auditors and regulators to investigate) the true worth of their assets.

Another significant crash in the commercial paper market — after the bankruptcies of Integrated Resources and Mortgage and Realty Trust — could, and most likely will, force the money market mutual funds to withdraw much of their huge support for the commercial paper market.

Money fund investors are being warned to move out of funds that favour commercial paper.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is also moving to force the money market mutual funds to disclose all but the very highest quality commercial paper.

That would pull out the

profits from under the last remaining source of ready cash for American corporations.

The importance of problems in commercial paper can be seen from the fact that in the three months to April 4, commercial banks' C&I loans outstanding rose 2.6 per cent a year, while non-financial commercial paper outstanding rose 26.5 per cent a year.

Money market mutual funds outstanding — of which much goes into commercial paper — rose 27 per cent a year in the three months to February.

The fragility of the commercial paper market may also be measured by the fact that in the first quarter of this year Standard & Poor's downgraded the debt of 155 companies — a record — but upgraded the debt of only 55 companies.

Leading names being downgraded or listed for possible downgrading by the big ratings services included Sears' credit card issues, Time-Warner, Citibank and Household International, one of the largest consumer finance companies.

One result has been a rise in the popularity of Treasury Bills, despite a torrent of new Treasury Bill issues to finance the working capital requirements of the Resolution Trust Corporation, charged with coping with the savings and loans debacle.

Since March 13, the 1990 peak for the 90-day T-Bill yield has fallen from 8.28 to 7.99 per cent — although the Treasury long bond has risen from 8.71 to 8.85 per cent.

Maxwell Newton
New York

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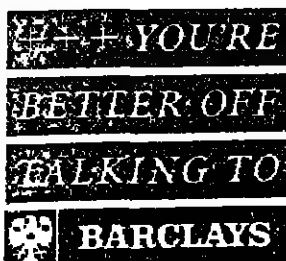
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US brokers wait to see Milken's next move

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

WALL Street brokers should know tomorrow whether Mr. Michael Milken, the junk bond king and alleged insider dealer, is going to turn on them as part of his deal with US government investigators to save his personal fortune and keep himself from a heavy prison sentence.

His offices carry a maximum 20 years in prison and the potential loss of his \$1.5 billion personal fortune.

US insider dealing investigators reckon they have some of Wall Street's biggest names on their hit list but need the co-operation of Mr. Milken to give evidence against them.

Mr. Milken struck a deal with government investigators on Friday to co-operate in 96 racketeering and securities fraud offences.

He is now set to plead guilty to six criminal charges and pay \$600 million in fines, in exchange for a maximum five years in prison, no more charges from the Securities and Exchange Commission and on condition that all charges against Lowell, his younger brother, are dropped.

He will disclose whether he is prepared to shop former colleagues and friends at tomorrow's court hearing, convened to confirm details of his bargaining.

His reluctance to co-operate

with the authorities has been a major sticking point in the 13 months since he was charged.

Mr. Richard Breeden, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the US share dealing watchdog, wanted Mr. Milken's agreement to give evidence against others made a condition of his settlement deal.

Friday's sketchy details of a deal made no mention of the issue.

Prosecutors believe he could lead them to a number of Wall Street's biggest players. In his 20 years on Wall Street, Mr. Milken, star and main profit earner for the now collapsed investment bank Drexel Burnham Lambert, has traded or underwritten securities for the most important deals and top-level names.

In the past decade, he has had a front row seat at every major takeover.

The US government will not pursue further charges being prepared against Mr. Milken, although it is unclear what will happen to Mr. Bruce Lee Newberg, a former Drexel trader still facing 96 counts of racketeering and securities fraud.

Mr. Milken's decision on co-operation is considered crucial to the continuing Wall Street investigation into insider dealing.



Michael Milken: previously reluctant to co-operate

TV buys 'to soar' before deadline

From Melinda Wittstock, Cannes

ITV contractors boosting their revenues with international programme sales and co-production deals at the 27th annual MIP-TV festival have predicted a spate of takeovers and mergers, with much of the action expected before the forthcoming franchise round.

Mr. Richard Dunn, Thames Television managing director, said he believed the 56 per cent stake in Thames put up for sale by Thorn-EMI and BEI would be bought long before next March, when applications for Channel 3 franchises are due.

But he said it was unlikely the Independent Broadcasting Authority would allow the stake to go to just one bidder. Mr. James Gattward, chief executive of TVS, said: "I doubt the Independent Television Commission [which takes over from the IBA in July] will discriminate but it's a question of whether a French or a German company could produce an adequate regional service for a UK audience."

Some ITV companies believe potential bidders, among them about 30 companies on the Continent, will buy stakes in those contractors they perceive to be well-placed in the franchise round.

The feeling is that only those with very deep pockets will wait until the franchises are awarded by autumn 1991.

LWT believes its share price will triple if it wins a franchise.

But Mr. James Gattward, chief executive of TVS, said: "If there is a rash of takeovers precipitated by the Thames disposal, it may divert attention away from the franchise round."

It is still unclear what the Broadcasting Bill will allow in terms of intra-ITV takeovers, but Mr. Peter Mott, a director of Tyne Tees Television, said he was confident of winning a franchise after discovering two of the big five ITV companies "suffering around our office, staking us out."

He added: "There's no doubt the IBA will allow deals before franchise applications are tendered, though it is likely a moratorium on deals immediately following the round will be enforced."

All the ITV companies, however, are dismayed they have spent the last four years caught up in a domestic debate about deregulation rather than being able to focus on international expansion.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Baltic states offer test on monetary theories

Economic and monetary theorists are going to have a field day in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The countries now emerging from the command economies of the Communist era present a unique series of test beds for the fundamental principles of economics more or less unconstrained by the administrative and political preconceptions of Western economies.

Already radical ideas are under consideration that have in the past proved too daring for the so-called market economies of the West. For instance, Vaclav Klaus, Czechoslovakia's finance minister, is toying with the idea of privatizing state-owned enterprises by giving back to the people what is supposed to belong to them — distributing shares or vouchers in industry. Czech citizens could then trade their allocations so that the benefit would be distributed evenly through the population and decisions on what to do with the resources would be spread over millions of individuals rather than confined to government.

It remains to be seen whether Mr. Klaus will get his way. But the debate is reminiscent of the argument in the 1970s over how Britain could make the best use of North Sea oil. Some members of the present Government, then in Opposition, were keen on the idea of tradable vouchers as a way of freely distributing the benefits of the North Sea, but the then Government's desire for revenue quickly got the better of it.

Lithuania's plans to break away from the Soviet Union pose even more fundamental questions. Not only will Lithuania and the other Baltic states need to re-introduce private property and the price mechanism, they must also devise a monetary policy and the administrative framework to impose it. Both Lithuania and Estonia are planning to abandon the ruble and introduce their own currencies.

The mechanical process of replacing one currency with another is relatively straightforward. The government will announce that from a chosen day it will buy rubles for the new Estonian kroon or Lithuanian lit at a predetermined rate for a period and that legal tender will henceforward be restricted to the new currency.

Britain is probably the Western country most familiar with this process. In the case of the former British colonies an intermediate stage usually followed the introduction of the new currency during which the newly-established currency boards backed the new currency *pro rata* with the pound. The Baltic states seem more likely to go straight to full monetary independence retaining no link with the ruble. This will mean setting in place their own monetary policies to restrain inflation.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

High rates hit pools company

By Our City Staff

LITTLEWOODS, the private football pools and stores group, has become the latest casualty of high interest rates. Profits in 1989 fell 10 per cent to £53.8 million.

This was caused by interest charges which almost doubled from £11.9 million to £23.6 million on borrowings of £196 million. Group operating profits rose 3 per cent to £87.4 million.

The profits drop, the second in succession, comes at a time of argument among the controlling Moores family over the company's future. Some are believed to favour a listing. Last month Mr. John Clement resigned as chairman. He was replaced by Mr. Leonard Van Gorp who will act as caretaker until a permanent successor is found.

Retailing increased sales by £90 million to £1.69 billion, but pools profits fell 4 per cent to £15.3 million.

Bank's help urged to fight inflation

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

BRITAIN should both change its methods of monetary control and give greater responsibility to the Bank of England, says Mr. Gordon Pepper in a research monograph published today by the Institute of Economic Affairs.

British monetary policy in the past 10 years has failed to end inflation — its key aim — and more inflation is likely, he says, adding that interest rates have a weak and indirect effect on growth in the money supply.

Under the Pepper plan, the Bank of England would take responsibility for directly controlling the supply of reserves available to the banking system. A rate of growth would be agreed annually with the Treasury and the agreed rate reported to Parliament.

Any significant departure would be reported to the Government and the Treasury Select Committee of the

House of Commons. The cause of proof would be on the Bank to justify the departure, he says.

Membership of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System is not an alternative to controlling reserves, says Mr. Pepper. "Under the present ERM regime, countries must harmonize their domestic monetary policies if massive intervention in financial markets is to be avoided. A country's ability to control the stance of its monetary policy continues to be very important."

Mr. Pepper, a director of Midland Montagu, says banks are no longer worried about the prospect of rising interest rates. The boost to profits from a higher level of business is usually greater than any loss on interest rates, he says. "Money, Credit and Inflation, £5.95.

Equimark makes first buy

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

EQUIMARK, the German acquisition fund launched last year by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, is making its first purchase. It is buying Vins Maschinenbau, a printing and coating machinery manufacturer, with annual sales of more than DM100 million (£35.8 million).

Equimark, a cross between an investment fund and an industrial holding company, was formed to provide institutional investors with a vehicle to take stakes in smaller West German companies, which form the backbone of the country's economy.

In contrast with Britain, almost all these companies are private. Eighteen institutions subscribed DM122 million to the fund.

Vins is being bought from the Wegge Group, a private US holding company, for an undisclosed sum.

UniChem lays down its plc formula

By Martin Waller

THE long and tortuous progress towards a stock market flotation for UniChem, the pharmaceutical wholesaler, takes a step forward this week with the arrival at more than 5,000 corner chemists of details of its conversion into a public limited company.

UniChem is forecast to gain its listing this year, with November the most likely date. A lengthy document for the 4,500 members of the co-operative, now classed as a friendly society, spells out the procedures for a conversion as the group prepares for its annual meeting on May 28.

A flotation would have two main

benefits. It would provide a market for those UniChem members retiring or otherwise leaving the business to cash in their membership. They are currently limited to selling their £1 shares back to the co-op at par value, which is well short of their true worth.

It would also allow UniChem to find fresh funds for expansion, possibly in the form of linking up with independent pharmacists through some sort of franchising scheme. There are plans to raise £25 million by means of a rights issue at the time of the float.

The 2 million existing shares in UniChem will, with members' agreement, be converted into 20 million 10p shares and they will also be asked to

subscribe for another 19.9 million at 10p a share on the basis of five offer shares for every 12 held.

The last valuation of UniChem, by URS Phillips & Drew in June, put a £110 million price tag on it. Assuming a further advance on that by flotation, the 40 million shares then in circulation would have a value approaching £3 each. A loyalty bonus will benefit shareholders staying in for at least two years.

UniChem started on the road to market in 1987 with a scheme that would have awarded shares to members according to the amount of goods they took from the co-op. Last May, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ruled the scheme uncompetitive.

Beckwiths share the spoils

By Martin Waller

JOHN and Peter Beckwith, the property tycoon brothers, who will each collect £40 million from the sale of their London & Edinburgh Trust to a Swedish insurance group for £500 million, are sharing some of the spoils with their workmates. For under a long-standing share options scheme, almost the entire staff of the Knightsbridge-based company will also collect a sizeable cheque from SPP, the bidder. "Any member of the staff who has worked for us for at least a year has been eligible for share options under the scheme," says John Beckwith, the chairman. "And as soon as the bid goes unconditional those options are turned into cash." It means that 90 of the firm's 120 employees will share about £132 million between them — an average of £1,100,000 each. "The scheme covers everyone, from directors to secretaries, from chauffeurs to tea ladies," Beckwith adds, explaining that ever since the company went public a committee of directors and the company secretary met regularly to consider who should be rewarded with the bonus of share options. "The decision as to who should, and who should not, receive options, and how many options, was made at the discretion of the committee," he says. "For some directors of the company the bid means a bonus well into six figures. But a lot of staff — secretaries and the like — are due to collect sums in the region of £50,000."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Capel star moves on

TERRY Smith, James Capel's star banking analyst, ranked number one in the sector, resigned on Friday, confirming reports of further staff departures at the securities house, after the resignation of its charismatic and popular boss, Peter Quinnen. Smith is on the brink of joining UBS

Phillips & Drew which, he has, offered him a job as head of its UK equity research division, reporting to Bill Seward, the overall head of research. If Smith does accept P&D's offer he will replace Alan Jones, who will turn his attention to equity strategy and quantitative research.

Years gone by

WORLD affairs-permitting, Mrs. Thatcher and husband Denis could be settling down in front of their video player for up to 48 hours this week, having today been presented with the full series of *A Year to Remember* by Roger Felber, chairman of Parkfield Group.



"Me too — had to drop out — late for work."

Parkfield bought the world-famous Pathé News Library last year, returning it to British ownership, and Felber has since conceived the idea of making individual videos from the film library for the years 1930 to 1969. Now being marketed as "the year you were born presents," they went on sale two weeks ago. So far, 500,000 have been sold. But Mrs T will be unable to see clips of her birth year — 1925.

Fooled, Hardy

THE prize for the quote of the week must go to David Hardy, chairman of Globe Investment Trust, on the eve of the £1 billion hostile bid for his company by the Coal Board pension funds, a 33 per cent share-holder. Asked about bid rumours, he said: "I do not believe there is any credence in this Coal Board story. I was with them today and this was never mentioned."

Long arm of justice

IF ANY of Isoceles's shareholders were passing the company's Gateway supermarket in Winchester, Hampshire, the other day, they could be forgiven for imagining that they had seen the little figure of its chief executive chasing two shady-looking individuals down the road. For that was what Scottish-born David Smith was doing. And he got his man. On an impromptu visit to the store, chartered accountant Smith, who is clearly having to learn fast about life as a retailer, was assaulted to witness two men busily concealing packets of meat under their jackets. "I rushed off to see the manager because I wasn't sure what the legal position was and, just as I was talking to him, they walked out of the door," he says. Giving chase, without hesitation, he was within two feet of the offenders when, in a strong Glaswegian accent, he belted: "Heh, Jimmy!" "I told the man I had seen taking the meat to hand it over and he did — about £24 worth. I didn't effect a citizen's arrest, because I wasn't sure of the legalities, but I gave him a good ticking-off," Smith, who adds that he is glad to have survived the ordeal, tells me he has now instructed all Gateway directors "that they must each get one shoplifter a week before they get their pay."

STICKER seen on the panther of a motorcycle being ridden by a courier at Bank corner, in the City, on Friday — "Baby on board."

Carol Leonard



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Company	Group	Gain or loss
1. Sci. TV	Leisure	
2. Allied-Lyons (a)	Beverages	
3. Farrel Eco	Industrial E-K	
4. Sunell	Industrial S-Z	
5. Brican	Industrial A-D	
6. Wilks (a)	Industrial S-Z	
7. Hunter Saphr	Food	
8. Compas Grp	Leisure	
9. O'Brien Hilda	Paper, Print, Adv	
10. Jantini Math	Industrial E-K	
11. ASW	Industrial A-D	
12. Chale Comm	Leisure	
13. Low (Wm)	Food	
14. Agri (a)	Food	
15. Severn Trent	Water	
16. Broom Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
17. P.E. International	Electricals	
18. Green Gro	Paper, Print, Adv	
19. Abbey	Building, Roads	
20. Securifi (a)	Paper, Print, Adv	
21. Power Corp	Property	
22. Fisons (a)	Industrial E-K	
23. Grand Met (a)	Beverages	
24. Staveley	Industrial S-Z	
25. Helical Bar	Property	
26. Fostco	Chemicals, Plastics	
27. Colvay	Building, Roads	
28. Hanson Wharfedale	Industrial E-K	
29. Oxyd Pwr	Oil, Gas	
30. Sips & New (a)	Beverages	
31. M5 Ltd	Industrial L-R	
32. P.J. Carroll	Tobacco	
33. Waterford Wedg	Industrial S-Z	
34. Thelus	Industrial S-Z	
35. Wolsey	Industrial S-Z	
36. Cosman	Building, Roads	
37. Reth Lavel	Food	
38. Dymans	Industrial A-D	
39. Wacall	Industrial S-Z	
40. Tomkins	Industrial S-Z	
41. Memec	Electricals	
42. Kingfisher (a)	Draperies, Stores	
43. New London	Oil, Gas	
44. Owners Abroad	Leisure	
45. Times Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	WEEKLY TOTAL

The six winners of the Times Portfolio Platinum competition will each receive £1,333.33p. They are Mrs Iris Scone of Benfleet, Essex; Mr John Booth of Kibbarchan, Renfrewshire; Mr Hamble Johnston of London; Mr Kenneth Turt of Sandgate, Kent; Mr Robbie Robinson of Edinburgh; and Mr Mark Walters of Farnborough, Hampshire.

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Stock	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

UNDATED

Stock	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

INDEX-LINKED

Stock	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Stock	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 9. Dealings end April 27. Settlement day April 30. Settlement day May 8.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

BREWERIES

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

FINANCE, LAND

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

FOODS

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

DRAPERY, STORES

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

ELECTRICALS

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

INSURANCE

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

E-K

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

LEISURE

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

MINING

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

L-R

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

S-Z

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

OILS, GAS

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

PROPERTY

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

SHOES, LEATHER

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

TEXTILES

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

TOBACCO

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

TRANSPORT

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

PROPERTY

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

SHOES, LEATHER

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

TEXTILES

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

TOBACCO

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

TRANSPORT

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

WATER

Company	Div	Price	Chg	%	Gain
100p	100p	100p	100p	100p	100p

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TEESSIDE

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

The area has known boom and decline, all in a short time. Now, Peter Davenport reports, it is restoring confidence and winning investment

PICTURES BY TED DITCHBURN AND CARL RUTHERFORD

How a region developed a bright future

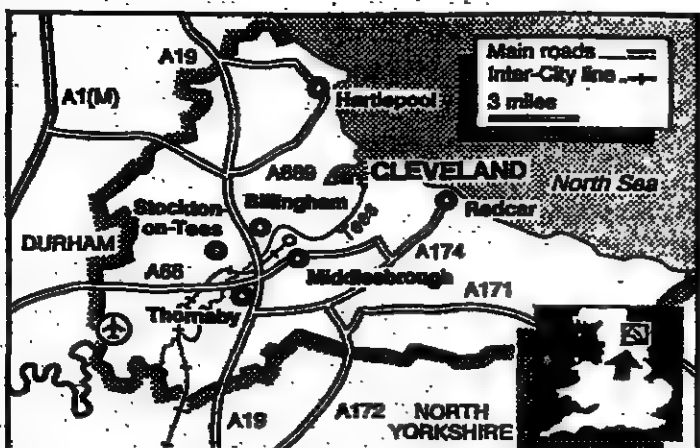
When the Government set up its family of urban development corporations to regenerate the most run-down and economically blighted areas of the country, it was acknowledged that the organization responsible for Teesside faced the most daunting task.

The 12,000 acres, or almost 19 square miles, under its remit are in the county of Cleveland, stretching from Hartlepool to Eaglescliffe and along the River Tees — the largest geographical area of any of the development corporations. It is a region that has known the euphoria of boom and the despair of decline, and the gulf between these two conditions was exacerbated because it occurred in a relatively short time.

In five years of Harold Wilson's Government, 20 per cent of all industrial investment in the UK went to Teesside, creating dynamic growth. Then, in less than two years, everything fell apart with the decline of its traditional steel, shipbuilding and chemicals industries. The introduction of new technologies in the drive for international competitiveness also forced thousands of workers into the jobless queue.

At its worst, unemployment rose to 23 per cent, with much higher figures in some areas. Business and commercial confidence plummeted and the fabric and environment of the area seemed to mock any hope of a brighter future. It was generally agreed that "something had to be done".

Against that background, the Teesside Development Corporation (TDC) was created in May 1987. Within a few months, the



Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, visited the area and was widely photographed striding purposefully across derelict urban wasteland, proclaiming her Government's determination to improve the lot of the country's blighted areas.

The development corporation, led by Duncan Hall, its chief executive, and Ron Norman, chairman, deliberately adopted a high-profile, sometimes controversial, approach.

They were determined to restore confidence within the area, and to "sell" Teesside as an area for profitable investment to big national organizations beyond its boundaries.

It was an enormous undertaking and, along the way, it has changed some preconceived notions of how development corporations should work. The development corporation has not gone in for amassing a large land bank, laying new roads and services, then attracting companies by offering financial lures and subsidies. Rather, it identified a series of opportunities for

investors and acted as a catalyst to make development happen.

Such an approach, Mr Hall admits, had its risks. The publicity created high expectations of better times ahead for Teesside people. The TDC had to deliver, or see its credibility destroyed.

Today, as Mr Hall sits at his desk in the TDC offices in Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, he can see those tactics coming to fruition through the picture windows that offer a panoramic view of the area. Bulldozers and earthmoving equipment are labouring away on almost all the main development sites created by the corporation to provide new houses, offices, factories, shopping, leisure and recreational facilities. In the next few years, he says, the TDC will have attracted £1 billion-worth of private-sector investment and created 20,000 jobs. Unemployment, at about 12 per cent, still higher than the national average, is half what it once was.

The task of reviving Teesside has been something of a personal

crusade for Mr Hall. He was born in Middlesbrough, and returned home from his previous post as chief executive of Corby in Northamptonshire armed with a wealth of knowledge of how to resuscitate a community said to be at death's door.

A few weeks after Mr Hall took up the post at Corby in 1979, the town's steel works closed, throw-

'We have moved from stimulating the psychology of investment confidence to the reality of it'

ing 13,000 people out of work and pushing unemployment to 35 per cent. He was a key figure in its revival. Today he speaks with quiet but understandable satisfaction of the progress already achieved towards securing a remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of his native area.

"I know it is a cliché, but there is no other way to put it: I really am extremely delighted with the progress that has been made," he says. "We have moved from stimulating the psychology of investment confidence to the reality of it. In simplistic terms, the situation is that, with one exception, we now have bulldozers on every single site on Teesside — that is 14 major schemes and possibly 40 overall."

"I am confident we will achieve more than £1 billion of investment, most of which is committed or about to be committed, on a figure of £300 million invested by us. That is the measure of the move that has taken place."

Among the biggest developments in hand are the £165 million Hartlepool marina, with the Lovell Partnership as lead developer, the creation of the Ocean Technology Centre, the first test area for subsea oil and gas recovery systems, the £110 million leisure and commercial project on the site of the former Stockton racecourse and the enormous, £350 million pro-

gramme of houses, offices, shops, leisure, recreation and hotel building in 10 developments on the Teesside site along the River Tees, where Mrs Thatcher took her wilderness walk three years ago. Plans there include putting a barrage across the Tees, which will be commissioned by 1992, to create a 12-mile lake which will improve the environment and the leisure use of the river. The whole project is several times the size of the planned London Canary Wharf development.

The scale of the developments initiated by the TDC has helped persuade other private-sector companies to invest in the region, says Hall, including a £1 billion-plus investment in the local chemical industry and the creation of a million square feet of new factory space. The level of private-sector and institutional investment in Teesside is now, Mr Hall says, higher than at any time for 20 years.

He adds: "We are getting close to the situation where demand exceeds supply. We have sufficient interest to give us con-

fidence in the way forward." Mr Hall says that despite the downturn in the national economy, there has been no adverse effect on investment on Teesside.

Mr Hall puts the ambitious aims of the TDC into a local perspective. The multinational company, ICI, set up business on Teesside in the 1920s, employing more than 50,000 people at its peak. During the subsequent 60 years or so, that single industry was expected to bolster and transform the local economy.

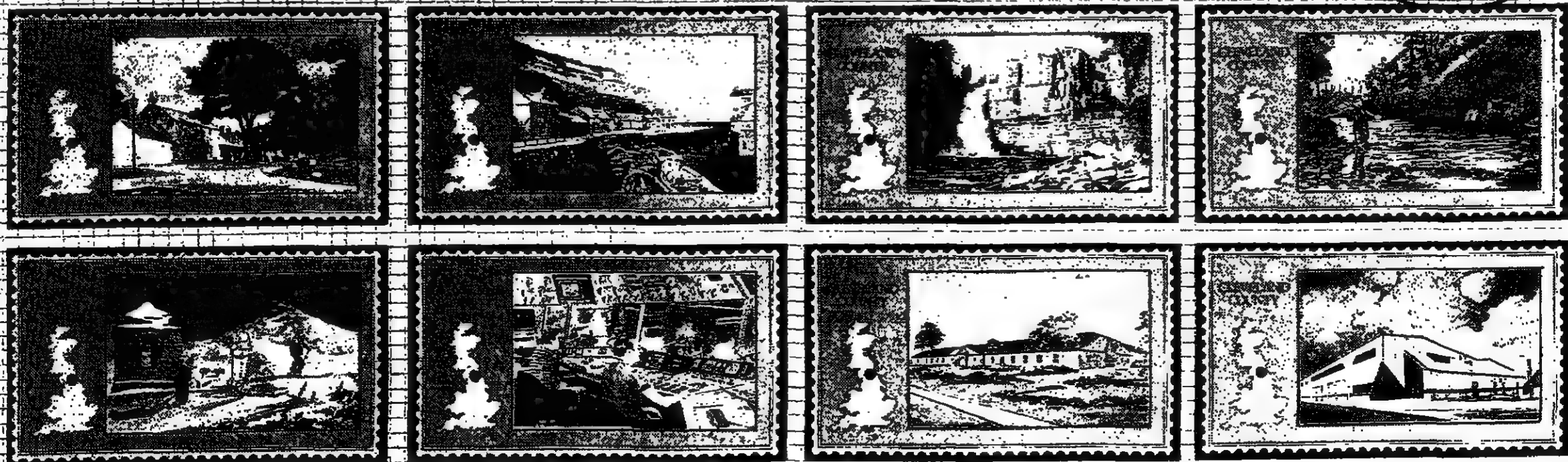
"What I am trying to do," Mr Hall says, "and I am in no doubt now that we will succeed, is to achieve the same impetus in terms of a diversification on Teesside, in five years."

He is also looking beyond the creation of jobs and the attraction of investment to making wider changes essential to ensure permanent improvement in the area's fortunes. "There is a quite proper requirement for the community to expect a wider and better range of social, leisure and cultural facilities. I think the goal is to achieve all of those."



Taking a high profile to "sell" Teesside to business and other organizations: Duncan Hall, the development corporation's chief executive

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Middlesbrough is adapting to the challenge of commercial opportunities, Peter Davenport writes

Leopard changes its spots

Middlesbrough is at the heart of the Teesside conurbation and is the commercial, shopping and entertainment centre for the county of Cleveland. It has undergone many changes over the past decade, in its physical appearance and the quality of its environment, and more changes are still to be completed.

Its image is one of an industrial centre, the urban skyline dominated by the large British Steel works, ICI and other chemical complexes. Yet, immediately adjacent are areas of outstanding coastline, moorland and hills that are among the most attractive in the region.

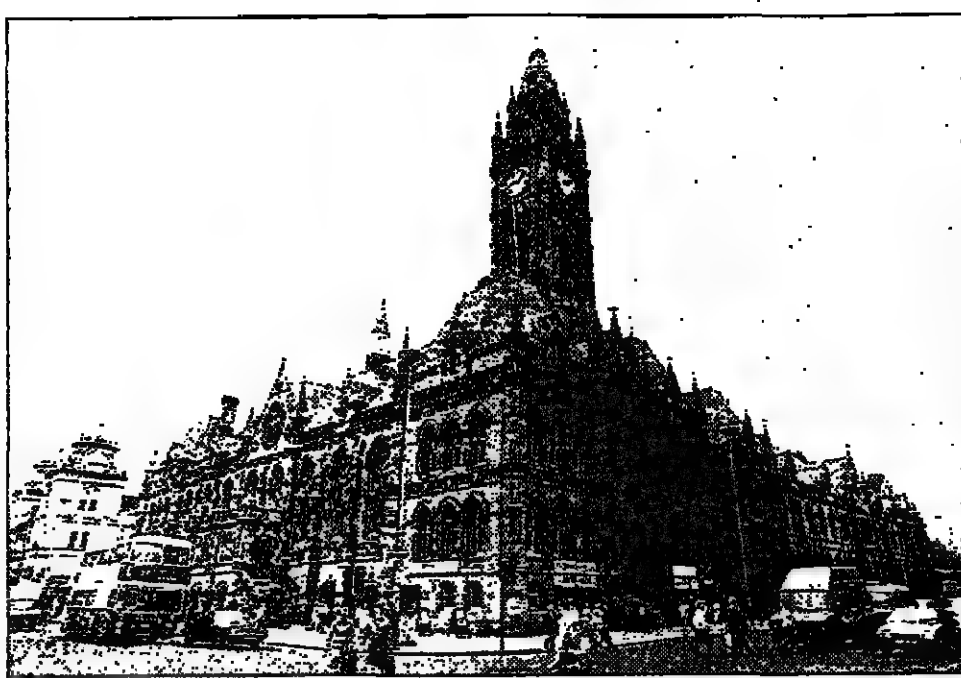
In 1980, the council completed its domestic smoke control programme, making it one of the first towns in the country to be free of domestic smoke. Current air pollution levels are said to compare favourably with other parts of the country and are better than many non-industrial areas.

Middlesbrough's town centre is said to be the most important shopping destination in the North-East, after Newcastle upon Tyne, with nearly 2 million square feet of stores, including three covered centres: the Dundas Arcade, Cleveland Centre and Hill Street Centre.

In September last year, the supermarket company, J Sainsbury, opened a 65,000-square-foot store close to the town centre, the company's first development in the North-East. The council is now discussing plans for another large shopping and leisure development in the town centre with the Cameron Hall company which developed the Metro Centre at Gateshead.

Much of the heavy industry traditional to the town since the Industrial Revolution has gradually moved to new sites nearer the Tees estuary and the council is encouraging growth in the light manufacturing, service, storage and distribution sectors.

It has set up programmes to aid locally based businesses to expand and to attract com-



New heart: the city's town hall is part of one of the area's biggest shopping centres

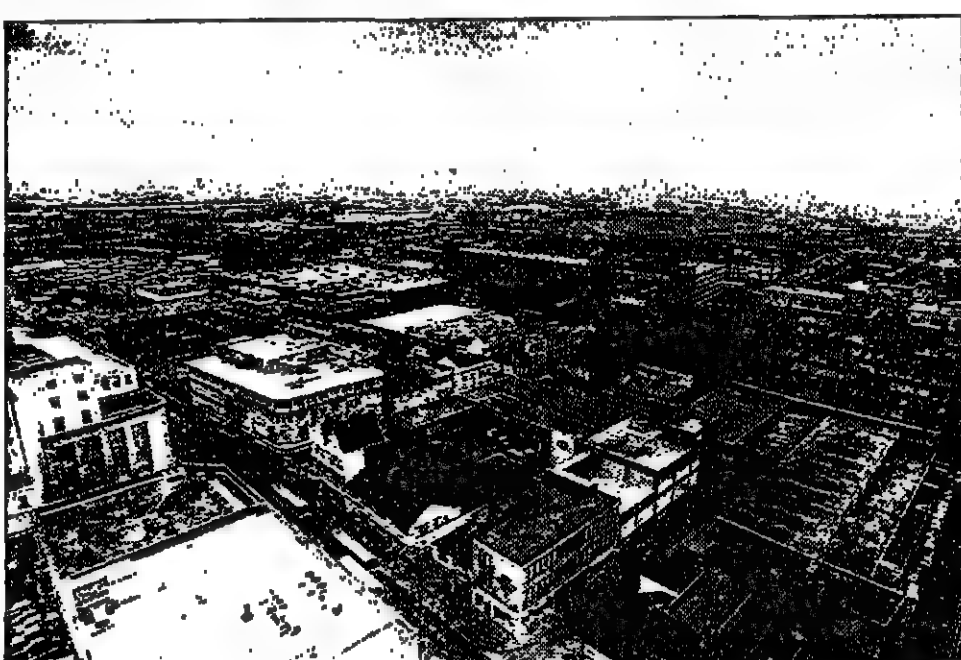
panies to the area, assisted by the town's status as an Inner Area Programme Authority.

Under the programme, new factories, workshops and warehouses have been built at Riverside Park and Cannon Park and on other small sites close to the centre. Houses have been turned into small

workshops and an Enterprise Centre has opened.

The Britannia Enterprise Zone was established in 1983 on the northern side of the town and covers 190 acres. It includes the successful Riverside Park industrial estate and an important stretch of river frontage and houses the com-

puter-aided design, computer-aided manufacture building, the CAD/CAM Centre, which is linked to a series of high-technology workshops nearby. The role of the local port on the Tees remains highly important to the economy of Middlesbrough and the wider region.



All change at Middlesbrough: the city is upgrading its image to attract new business

It is the second largest port in England and 96 per cent of the annual tonnage it handles is made up of oil and steel products, two of Cleveland's main industries.

Doug Allan, the council's information officer, says the face of Middlesbrough has changed completely over the past 15 years. It would be virtually unrecognizable to someone who has been away for a long time.

"We are proud of what we have achieved. We would have liked to have done it more quickly but it was a case of finance. Now there is a real confidence in the town."

Among developments nearing completion in the centre are a £12 million Crown Courts complex, the Cleveland Business Centre for managed workshops costing more than £2 million and new offices for the Inland Revenue to process London PAYE which will create 200 jobs locally.

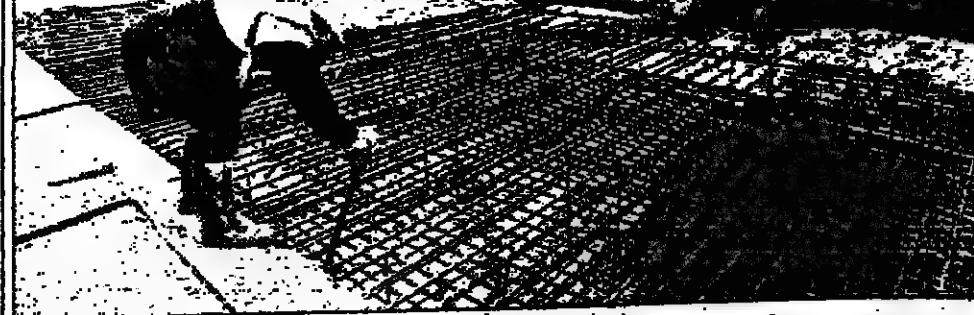
The council believes it has created an attractive town centre which will enable traders successfully to resist out-of-town shopping developments.

As an industrial town, Middlesbrough had a history of poor environmental conditions, but substantial improvements have been achieved by council-inspired initiatives. Other programmes to eradicate the air, water, land, waste and noise problems are underway.

Although many would have mocked the idea only a few years ago, Middlesbrough has developed a growing role in the tourism trade in the county.

Its hotels are used as a base, particularly for the short-stay trade, for those wishing to visit the surrounding countryside, such as the Cleveland Hills, the North York Moors National Park and the outstanding coastline.

Some 3,000 jobs in the town are linked to the tourism trade, an industry which generated about £16 million in the whole county last year and which is expected to grow to £30 million within the next five years.



The £80 million leisure/commercial centre being built on the old Stockton racecourse

Hi-tech hopes help to carry the enterprise spirit onwards

The town of Stockton-on-Tees is the biggest district in Cleveland. Years ago, it was a place blackened by industry where workers swarmed daily to the river to build ships.

The yards are now gone, famous names crossed from the riverbank in the quiet industrial revolution that spelled the end for labour-intensive industries.

Stockton now earns its living from hi-tech industries, as well as from expansion of the long-established areas of chemicals, steel-making and heavy engineering.

The sense of enterprise is strong in Stockton. It was there that George Stephenson and his son Robert established the world's first public passenger railway, between Stockton and Darlington. Three years later he would have been able to light the fire box of Locomotion, the steam engine that hauled the train, with the world's first friction match; another invention pioneered in Stockton by John Walker.

Stockton borough contains the towns of Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby and a scattering of attractive rural villages. Among its satellites are nine designated conservation areas, two of which, Yarm and Norton, have been recognized by the Department of the Environment as being of outstanding natural beauty.

A leisure and commercial development worth £80 million is being built at Teesside

Stockton has taken a new track - it has swapped trains for the microchip

Park, Thornaby, and will rank among the largest complexes of its kind in the UK.

Old Stockton has a spacious high street, thought to be the widest in England, and is commanded by an 18th-century town hall, which celebrated its 250th anniversary four years ago and is among the oldest municipal buildings still in regular use.

There is a ready workforce and sites to suit any size of company looking for a base in the region. Efforts by local authorities, the Teesside Development Corporation, the Government and private and European investors are combining to reverse the decline.

Demand for property is strong - Stockton council sold 60 acres for industrial development last year and has less than nine acres left for sale.

The area's advantages are prompting dozens of developments. Several new shops and office schemes are improving Stockton's town centre, where refurbishment of the Castle Centre continues and a £40 million high-street development is expected.

Grants are available to give town-centre properties a facelift and, through the Indus-

trinitiative, to improve run-down areas. The centre of the town will be opened up when the Teesside site, where Mrs Thatcher "walked in the wilderness" three years ago, the Racecourse complex and the Stockton centre development are linked by a new road that will extend to the motorway system outside the town.

There are "flagship" developments, such as the business park at Preston Farm, where private developers have invested £10 million.

The council's Enterprise Centre - opened in 1988 - is home to more than 80 companies producing goods ranging from petticoats to security systems. It has played an important part in easing unemployment, particularly among young people. With the adjoining Youth Business Centre, to be opened in December, the projects will help fledgling businesses become established. This latest addition has cost £220,000 and will have 13 units to accommodate enterprising 16 to 25-year-olds who will have extensive advice and business training available on site.

Expert help is also available at the Belasis Hall project, a joint venture between ICI and English Estates North. Companies moving on to the park will be able to link into ICI's nearby research facilities. Thus the local industrial giant will be able to give practical help to new-found enterprise.

Ronald Faux

"How about coming to Belasis Park?" says George Hunter



George Hunter, Chief Executive of Belasis Hall Technology Park, explains: "Belasis Park, situated at Billingham, is a unique, prestigious development that provides an ideal location for high-tech and knowledge based businesses. The Park, which is a joint initiative between ICI and English Estates North, was opened in March 1988 and in only two years has expanded into its fourth phase of building. We now have over thirty companies, small, medium and large, housed in offices, suites and pavilions.

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So as you can see, there's a lot we can offer you at Belasis. Why not think about coming to join us? We've got good roads, plenty of car parking space, and splendid facilities in a landscaped setting."

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Winning friends for a much-maligned North

TIME was when a company or government department relocating in the North had a major problem on its hands. (Ronald Faux writes). The north-south divide meant that north Britain was perceived as a gloomy pit lined with dereliction, a place of low living standards and poor opportunities.

Northern development areas tell stories of coaches filled with sceptical southerners who were being asked to uproot and move north in accordance with government policy. All too often they came, saw and fled back south with a strong impression that Blake's vision of dark Satanic mills was too close to the truth.

On Teesside, that appears to have changed. The Ministry of Defence workers of the quality-assurance directorate, who are due to be transferred to the directorate's new centre on a 55-acre site at Preston Farm, south of Stockton, do not seem to be suffering these preconceptions.

The new centre, which will monitor standards on £8 billion worth of defence equipment, is expected to provide 1,450 jobs, 850 recruited lo-

cally, including 250 apprenticeships, the remainder transferred from Bromley and Woolwich in south London.

Consulting engineers W. S. Atkins are drawing up designs for the 700,000 sq ft building and site preparation work is under way in time for the move north by 1993.

Peter Watson, marketing director of the Teesside Development Corporation, says: "The reaction has been marvellous. We have had union people looking around the area on behalf of themselves and other workers. They came, some of them, never having been to the North and with very much a sceptical attitude about moving up here. After seeing what this area has to offer, hardly anyone has said they do not want to come."

What has helped changed attitudes is not only the millions that have been poured into transforming the industrial North into a greener and more pleasant place, but a realization that its leisure and cultural facilities do not belong to the Dark Ages.

There are more pragmatic reasons that make a move north even more attractive. In

spite of a slack market, property prices in the South are double those on Teesside. A man selling his home in Bromley may buy the same property in possibly a better position on Teesside and be left with a handsome nest egg to invest.

"Many appreciate they will have a better quality of life in the North simply because it is less crowded and less under pressure in so many respects. But they are afraid that once they leave the property spiral in the South they will never be able to afford to move back there at some later stage in their career," Mr Watson says.

To allay these fears, the ministry has given an assurance that any career in the quality-assurance directorate will be based exclusively in the North.

For career civil servants who may wish to keep a foothold in the South, a special arrangement with a building society has been offered allowing a second 100 per cent mortgage allowing them to retain their London property, the rent from which covers the first mortgage.

"I think we have reached the point where a move to the

North is attractive not only to a company searching for somewhere with available workers, or people that can be trained, where salary levels are not being forced up by inter-company head-hunting, and where there is some help from the Government to pay for relocation but also to workers themselves," Mr Watson says.

"They come from the South now and no longer see people staring dejectedly at the ground."

"They see a really vibrant community that is worth joining."

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Bridging the gaps

Enterprise, training and development are the keywords in Cleveland County Council's economic strategy for Teesside, Peter Davenport reports

Cleveland County Council, which includes the whole of Teesside within its boundaries, has embarked on a new economic strategy intended to ensure its pivotal role in shaping the area's economic regeneration and securing a better future for its 500,000 citizens.

Under the three headings of enterprise, training and physical development, the strategy sets out 10 programmes and brings together for the first time all the main elements of the authority's involvement in business support, promotion and training, improving the infrastructure and environment.

John Gillis, the council's director of economic development and planning, says the council has a long record of promoting the local economy. Among its successes are its flexible assistance scheme which has supported 200 companies and created more than 5,000 jobs, and a team of six people, formed to support local companies operating in Europe, which deals with more than 1,000 inquiries a year about business property.

"All these initiatives will continue as vital elements within the economic strategy," Mr Gillis says. "What we now have is a framework which can bring together these and future initiatives in a way which ensures that we integrate our activities in an effective way and that we target our actions on key sections of the economy — on areas of the county where there are particular needs and on the need to enhance local decision-making and equality of opportunity."

The local economy still largely reflects the area's development as a location for the iron and steel industry, heavy engineering, oil and chemicals. Despite large capital investments made by individual companies, closures and rationalization programmes led to the loss of 45,000 jobs in the county between 1975 and 1981. A further 16,000 were gone by 1984.

The council's strategy document says that even if projections for the creation of 10,000 jobs by 1996 are fulfilled, it will still leave Cleveland with 48,000 fewer jobs than there were in 1975.

Although unemployment has recently fallen, it continues to be the area's "dominant problem", the council says.

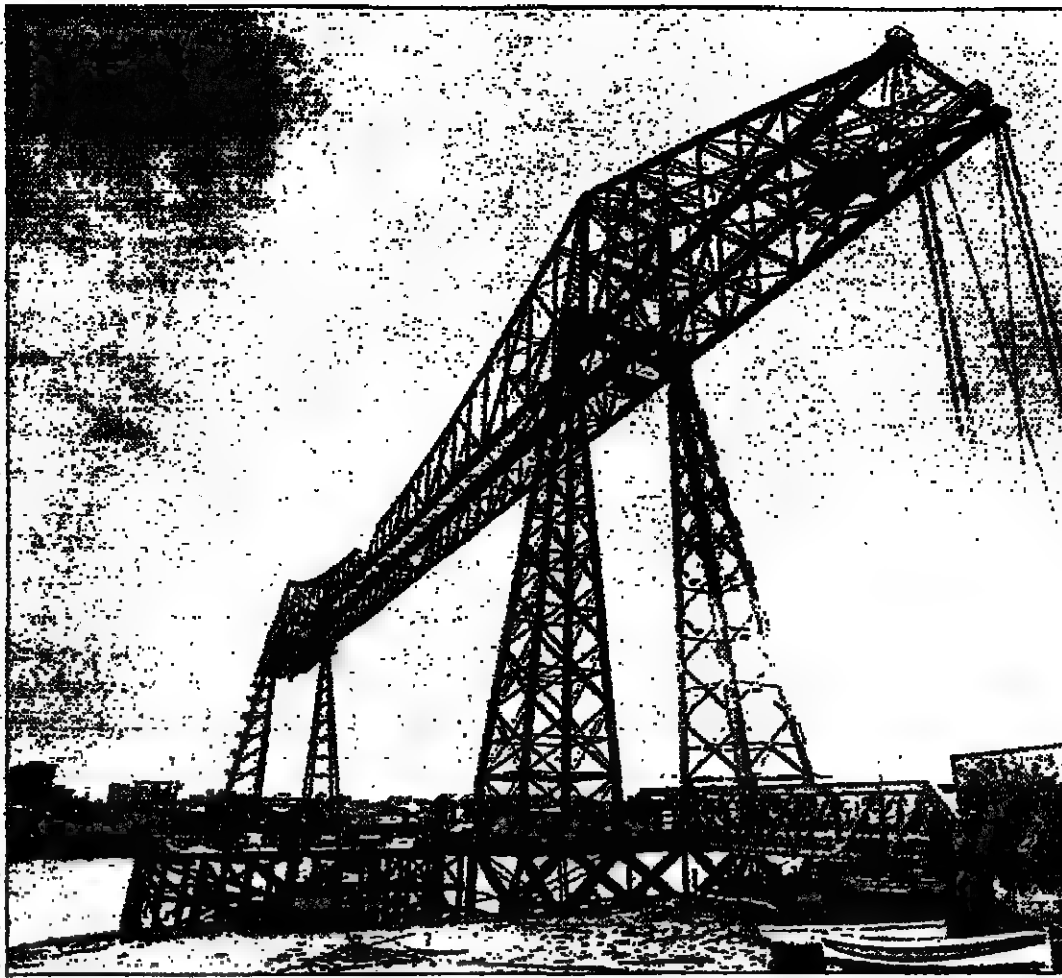
Among the economic weaknesses identified in the report is that of a narrow industrial base reliant on heavy industry, a predominance of large national and international companies controlled from headquarters outside the region and a lack of small and medium-size companies.



John Gillis: creating new jobs

The council says it recognizes the limitations of its own action and sees the need to generate co-operation between the private, public, voluntary and community sectors. It sees its role as a catalyst and an advocate for change and action.

The county's economic future must be built on its manufacturing



Uniting both sides of the river: the giant transporter bridge — a symbol of Teesside togetherness

base and skills, it says. The development of products using improved processes and the latest technologies will be essential to the success, and indeed the survival, of the local companies.

The share of jobs in the manufacturing and construction industries shrank from 52 per cent in 1975 to 35 per cent in 1988, while the service sector job count rose during the same period from 46 to 62 per cent. Although the majority of new jobs in the next decade are likely to be in services, the council says it is "imperative" that the manufacturing base, the wealth creator, be sustained and built on.

There are 78 electrical, electronic and computer companies in the county, employing nearly 2,500 people, and the council helps fund the Northern Development Company in its successful efforts to attract investment from overseas, particularly Japan and the Far East.

The authority is now concentrating on electronics and control and instrumentation companies in the south of England in an effort to attract further investment. It has also helped locally based, traditional industries to acquire new technology to remain competitive, partly by providing individual

financial support packages to help a large number of companies to purchase new equipment.

Recognizing the value of the science parks which are springing up around the county, especially in areas which are competing with Cleveland for investment capital, the council assisted with the costs

'What we have is a framework which can bring together these and other initiatives'

of the feasibility study which led to ICI developing the successful Belasis Hall Technology Park.

It also took the unusual step for a local authority of joining with the national computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacture body, the CAD/CAM Association, to fund the development of the Cleveland CAD/CAM centre and its operating company.

A high technology centre being

developed at a cost of £3.5 million on Middlesbrough's Riverside Park will bring together the CAD/CAM centre's operating company, the Welding Institute, the world leader in materials-joining technology and a company which specializes in computer-aided engineering software and document information systems. Local manufacturing companies are being encouraged to take full advantage of the sophisticated technology available through the centre.

Bob Barnes, a principal strategy officer in Cleveland's economic development and planning department, says the council does not have all the answers — nobody does. "What we want to do is to get everybody working together and to co-ordinate all the efforts being made on improving the local economy."

A key part of the co-ordination will be the work of a series of five technical panels which the council is establishing, covering technology, business support, training, property and infrastructure and environmental issues. Their members will be drawn from a cross-section of organizations working in the county and will meet every three months.

High hopes help lift the enterprise spirit

As industry gears up for the competitive 1990s, the traditional giants, after some lean years, are ready to set the pace

Chemicals, steel and heavy engineering remain the bedrock on which Teesside industry is founded. However important the scores of newcomers to the region's industrial scene may be for bringing diversity and a broader white-collar base, the traditional giants — lean and competitive after the crisis years — give Teesside its industrial gravitas.

ICI alone employs 13,000 workers. British Steel plants have slightly fewer than 7,000, but thousands more work with such internationally renowned construction and engineering companies as the Davy Corporation, Cleveland Bridge, Whessoe and Northern Engineering Industries.

These have the stature of solidly established companies facing the challenges not only of the European market but of inter-continental trade. The Davy Corporation companies continue their international success with wide-ranging developments in engineering construction, energy and environmental, offshore projects and research and development.

It is reassuring for a development area such as Teesside that Davy has concentrated on training as the route to be taken to prepare for the intense competition forecast for the 1990s and the main key to profitability within British industry.

British Steel plc, settling into its privatized form, set record levels of liquid steel output last year from the main integrated works on Teesside. The plant poured out 3.75 million tonnes, a third of it for export, adding an important share to the overall £593 million British Steel profits.

Most significantly, this was achieved with a productivity rate that last year reached 3.36 man hours a tonne. Ten years ago, when the industry was wracked by industrial trouble, that figure stood at 14 man hours a tonne.

The main product from Teesside are the beams and columns for structural steel buildings. Substantial stretches of skyline in the London Docklands, and in San Francisco and Los Angeles rely on Teesside steel for support.

turing operations of ICI on Teesside ran flat out last year and many achieved record outputs as demand remained strong. The 1990s promise to be more challenging. High interest rates began to hit demand as consumer spending slowed and reflected on manufacturing industry demand for chemicals.

But the company faces a tougher year with more confidence because of what management describes as a "fitter and leaner" shape. New markets are expected to develop from the Wilton Materials Research Centre through which the company's world-wide scientific team will search for new materials for use in such areas as the aerospace, communications and automotive fields.

The £7.5 million research centre will house 200 scientists, some relocated from Runcorn. The centre will support a further 650 scientists on Teesside and 2,000 working in ICI laboratories around the world.

The atmosphere within the company is radically different from the time some years ago when a crisis triggered by exchange rates and their effects on commodity chemicals effectively caused 5,000 redundancies.

That upheaval was followed by fresh development, in particular the Chemicals and Polymers Group, which drew together four of ICI's major operations. The group now employs 38,000 in the United Kingdom, more than a third of them in Teesside.

ICI assets in Billingham, Wilton and North Tees are valued at £4.5 billion and the company pours over £300 million a year into the region in wages and rates.

The latest investment to be announced by the company is a plant that will eliminate chemical waste arising from its methyl methacrylate manufacturing operations at Billingham. Although monitoring has shown that sea disposal does not harm marine life, this method is to be discontinued and the multi-million pound investment made in the new plant instead.

Ronald Faux



DAVY AND TEESSIDE - A PROSPEROUS PARTNERSHIP

In 1985 Davy celebrated its 100th anniversary in Stockton. Although Davy's engineering centres and projects are now spread over fifty countries, employing nearly 14,000 people, Teesside has retained a prominent position in the company's affairs.

Technology skills, combined with a vigorous attitude to challenge, has provided Davy with a formidable workforce of nearly 2,000 in the region. Together they generate sales of over £100 million and contribute notably to Davy's financial performance.

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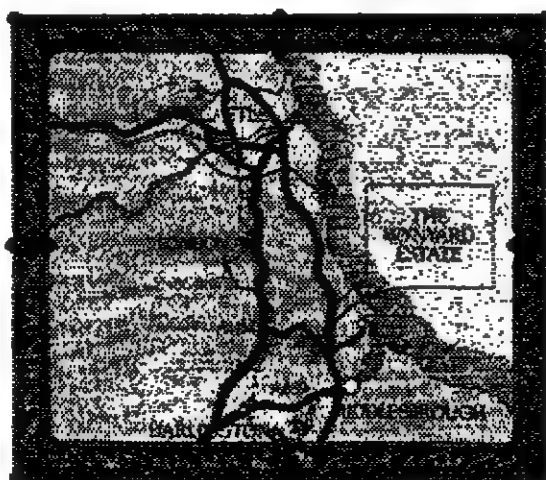
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Wynyard Hall and its opulent staterooms have already been totally restored, and are now the home of fine cultural activities such as the Wynyard Series of Symphony and Chamber Concerts.

Wynyard is the second of Cameron Hall Developments' major projects in the North – the first was the Gateshead Metro Centre, now attracting over 20 million visitors a year from all over the world.



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personal tour of the estate – write to John Hall, Chairman, Cameron Hall Developments Limited, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5NS.

Wynyard

Another major project by Cameron Hall Developments Limited, developers of the Gateshead Metro Centre.



"Let's lengthen the runway and boost capacity" — Mr Dawson, managing director of Teesside International Airport

Mean, lean and hungry for airport competition

An airport is a pulse that reflects the vitality of its surrounding region. A sensitive indicator of the true state of business and commercial activity. If that is true, Teesside is faring well. The airport near Darlington has firmly incorporated "international" into its title and plans to achieve a dominant position among northern airports.

Mr Dawson, managing director of Teesside International Airport Ltd, sees the widening markets of Europe and the liberalization of air routes within the European Community as a chance for further expansion. A study has been ordered into the feasibility of lengthening the main runway from 7,500 to 10,000 feet and providing a "blind" landing capability that would allow Teesside to handle the biggest jets, fully loaded, in most conditions, and give it the potential to develop a range of inter-continental flights.

The land to accommodate the longer runway is already in airport ownership. Mr Dawson says Teesside could carry out the expansion more easily than its rivals in the region, Newcastle or Leeds-Bradford, and at a cost of £4 million. "In

The region has not been slow to grasp the opportunities of the single market. Ronald Faux reports

airport terms," he says, "that is buttons compared with the benefits it would bring to the airport and to the region. The potential for the North-East is remarkable, and the amount of investment going into Teesside at the moment suggests the region is on its way up."

When the airport was taken over from local authority ownership seven years ago, it was making heavy losses. Operations moved into the black for the first time last year. Mr Dawson says: "Keeping price rises at no more than half the rate of inflation has been a painful exercise. We are now mean, lean and hungry, and aiming to be very competitive. We keep work 'in house' wherever possible, and that includes technical work, such as installing the security systems now required."

Mr Dawson says two threats to the airport's future are the EC directive on airport landing charges, under which land-

ings once classified as international become effectively domestic, and the withdrawal of duty-free facilities.

Both will mean significant losses of revenue, but because Teesside services are mainly domestic, losses will be lighter than at some other airports. The average loss from duty-free facilities alone would be 28 to 35 per cent, whereas Teesside expects to lose only 4.5 per cent gross revenue.

A strong local demand has been identified among industry and commerce for services to Paris, Brussels, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt, and to North America for both passenger and cargo flights. More than £1 million is already being spent on refurbishing the terminal building, constructing a new domestic departure lounge and refitting the air-traffic visual-control room.

The untapped potential for growth leaves the airport

management with a sense of frustration. Mr Dawson points out that within 30 miles of the airport there is more Japanese investment than anywhere else in the UK, producing an inevitable demand for air cargo and passenger services.

Teesside is a major centre for the North Sea oil industry; nearly half the industry's workers are based in or around the region. That, too, generates demand for air services. A huge volume of cargo traffic, estimated at one million kilograms a year, leaves the region by road and rail to be flown out from Heathrow, another factor in the revenue drain.

The push is on, with significant growth in helicopter traffic to North Sea installations from Teesside. The added advantage of a longer runway will allow the airport to compete for local traffic with burgeoning cargo-handling operations at Heathrow.

Another irritant for the Teesside airport management is the prevalent industry belief that air services are best structured around a hub (Manchester, in the case of the North) and a series of smaller spokes.

"I wish we had a dozen of him" said an official about entrepreneur John Hall

The man who can make things happen plans 15,000 new jobs

Every era produces its own folk heroes, individuals who seem larger than life, who can raise the spirits and fire the imagination simply by the strength of their personality and determination.

Sometimes it may be a politician, a musician or a sportsman; rarely is it a businessman.

John Hall, a North-Easterner through and through, is an exception. Born the son of a local miner in a cramped pit house, his rise has been exceptional.

He left school at 16 to train as a mining surveyor at a local colliery, went on to start his own development company and today is the biggest property developer in the region, and owner of Wynyard Park, the former ancestral home of the Londonderry family, a 6,000-acre straddling the counties of Durham and Cleveland, for which he reportedly paid several million pounds. A further £3 million has been spent on its renovation.

Little in the area seems to happen without Hall's involvement; whether it be commercial development, the

launch of some new government scheme, cultural initiatives or a battle to get on the board of Newcastle United Football Club. Admire him or resent him, the one thing that cannot be said, even by Hall's adversaries, is that he was a man who took his money and ran.

As one government official confided at the launch of yet another plan attended and supported by the ubiquitous Mr Hall, "Every region needs a John Hall because people think 'If he can do it, why can't I?' I wish we had a dozen of him". Hall, now 55, came to national prominence with his development of the acclaimed Metro Centre shopping complex at Gateshead, then the largest covered complex in Europe.

It cost more than £200 million and was developed with the financial backing of

the Church Commissioners, who wanted to be seen investing money in one of the country's most deprived areas. Since the shopping element opened, there have been other additions including a warehousing park, an amusement park for children, a 150-bedroom hotel and a four-storey office block.

Further developments, which will take the value of the scheme to more than £300 million, are planned. Hall is a fervent believer, and vocal disciple, in the principle of "provincial regeneration".

It is set to be one of the largest developments of its type ever undertaken and will have a great impact on the region, both in the provision of jobs and in providing a high-quality facility to attract companies.

Colin Warren, a director of Mr Hall's company, Cameron Hall Developments, says that outline planning permission for all the schemes had been obtained and work is progressing on detailed submissions to the five local authorities involved.

"We hope to have the detailed application for submission this spring and, if all goes to plan, work will start on the first phase this summer," he said.



Hall: further ventures

from the collieries where Hall's family worked for generations.

Hall's latest venture is to turn Wynyard Park into an international centre for business, art and craft in a £300 million development over the next decade, which, he says, will create 15,000 jobs.

There are plans for two big hotels, a conference centre, championship golf courses, executive homes and a 400-acre business park.

It is set to be one of the largest developments of its type ever undertaken and will have a great impact on the region, both in the provision of jobs and in providing a high-quality facility to attract companies.

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Peter Davenport

Land of coast, hills and contrasts

Langbaugh (pronounced Langbar) on Tees has its head in the open countryside of the Cleveland Hills and its feet set firmly in the industry of the River Tees.

These extremes mark the strong contrast and rich variety to be found in the borough, which includes the urban districts of Loftus, Skelton and Brotton, Saltburn, Marske-by-the-Sea and Guisborough.

The coastal edge runs along a line of fine sea cliffs — the name Cleveland derives from "cliff land" — and, within its 93 sq miles, contains what the official guide describes as a borough of contrasts.

Ten minutes' drive from the industrial centre of Middlesbrough brings one into open countryside, heading for the North York Moors National Park, a cluster of delightful

villages and market towns or a coastline with sands so perfect that Malcolm Campbell twice attempted to break the world land speed record on them.

Although the trend towards second homes and dormitory communities has increased recently as industrial and commercial life on Teesside has grown more prosperous, the country towns of Langbaugh thrive in their own right and guard their own rich history.

This makes the area attractive to industry that is decentralising and seeking a less congested base away from the south-east. Southern prejudices about the North quickly change under the charm of such places as Newton under Roseberry, Upleatham or Skelton.

Kirkstatham lies only half a

mile away from the ICI petroleum complex, yet retains its quiet identity behind a shield of woodland and is a haven of fine architecture.

An enjoyable way to take in Langbaugh in one sweep on a clear day is from the 1,064-ft summit of Roseberry Topping, once an island in an ice-age sea, and now the borough's most striking natural landmark. Green countryside rolls gently towards the edge of the North Sea. In the opposite direction moorland stretches infinitely to the horizon. There is the softness of Sussex wrapped round by the Scottish Highlands.

It takes a day by car to savour the 35 miles of the Langbaugh museum trail, but it is a day well spent, with three museums, a country house, two ancient churches

(one claimed to be the smallest in England), a 12th-century priory and a Victorian water-balanced cliff lift along the way. Walkers have a wide choice of directions in which to head, principal among them the Cleveland Way, which runs through the heart of Langbaugh.

The local authority is keen to develop Teesside as a leisure area. The latest scheme to receive approval from the Tourism and Leisure and Economic Development Committee of Langbaugh Borough Council is a £3 million artificial ski slope in the Eston Hills, which will have more than two miles of piste and is designed to be twice the size of Sheffield Ski Village.

Ronald Faux

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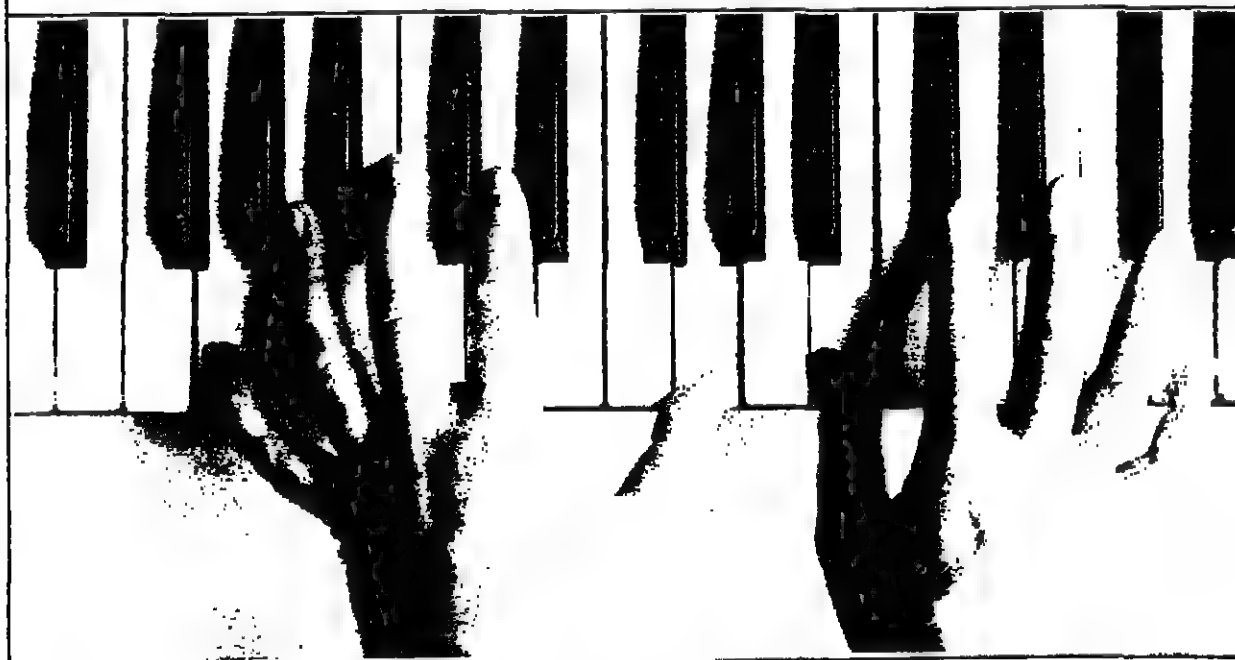
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The marina launches a new lively image

Hartlepool sees its boat harbour as more than a typical facility for a reviving town, Peter Davenport reports

It is no longer unusual for a marina to be included in plans to renovate the old waterfronts of our towns and cities, but Hartlepool's £165 million development at its old South Docks is more than just a decorative adjunct, it is a bold statement about its image and future.

The importance of the marina development in a town once noted more for a football team that usually propped up the entire Football League is clear from the fact that it has attracted a £51 million government grant, the largest single item of expenditure for an urban regeneration project ever approved.

For generations, the very name of Hartlepool, a town with a population of about 88,000, has conjured up a dour, workaday image.

It is one which has not made the job of attracting investment and industry any easier. In the forward to Hartlepool council's recently published "Strategic Plan for 1990-91", Brian Dinsdale, its chief executive, acknowledges the legacy.

"For a number of years," he writes, "Hartlepool has suffered, undeservedly from a poor image which inevitably affects the prosperity of the town. Changing that perception represents a major challenge, in which the council's role will be vital."

"Many of the projects and initiatives now under way point clearly to a positive approach towards the problems facing the town, while the prestige development of the South Docks provides a rare opportunity to capture the public's imagination."

He says many of the current projects indicate that the council is taking a positive approach to the problems facing the town.

The backdrop to the campaign for Hartlepool's renaissance is an unemployment rate of about 13 per cent, twice the national average and higher than the figures for the northern region as a whole, areas of poor-quality environment and a significantly higher mortality rate than the national average.

Large-scale cutbacks and closures in heavy and light manufacturing industries, such as shipbuilding, iron and steel making and chemicals, have been the main factors

behind the rise in the jobless totals. Although there have been recent encouraging signs of growth in some areas, such as electronics and textiles, the gains pale in comparison with the large-scale losses in the county of Cleveland since the mid-1970s.

The concept of a marina for Hartlepool had been discussed for many years but, despite the efforts of local leaders, no way of achieving the project had been found until the Teesside Development Corporation adopted the scheme as one of its most important priorities when it was created in 1987.

Finding the appropriate developer took many months, but finally the Lovell Partnerships were selected and the scheme now under way is, in the words of Andrew Wassell, chief executive of Y.J. Lovell (Holdings), "the biggest urban regeneration project we have undertaken and the best



Brian Dinsdale: challenge

waterside development site currently available in the North."

The project, which is expected to take seven years to complete, is expected to become the largest waterside leisure, residential, business and tourism development in the North East. It will be managed by an organization called Hartlepool Renaissance, on behalf of the Teesside Development Corporation, Lovell Partnerships and the Tees and Hartlepool Port which owns land on the marina site.

The first phase has already begun. Warrior Quay's houses and apartments development is named after HMS Warrior, the world's first ironclad warship, launched in 1860 and expertly restored a few years ago at Hartlepool. The restoration of historic ships will remain an important activity at the new marina. By the time the work is completed, the

development will cover 200 acres and a mile of water frontage, provide 400 berths, 1,500 houses and apartments, specialized shops, restaurants, bars and a hotel as well as a business park and a maritime heritage centre.

It is only one of a number of changes designed to take Hartlepool into the 1990s with a new sense of purpose. Many of the others, including the redevelopment of the town's main shopping centre, dating from the early 1960s, are taking place under the direction of the borough council.

William Emerson, the leader of the council, writing of the Strategic Plan, says: "The council has always maintained a positive view of the town's future, despite serious economic problems stemming from a virtual collapse of the traditional industrial base over the past 15 years."

"Problems still exist and should not be minimized. However, recent developments, notably the Hartlepool Marina, will help preserve and enhance Hartlepool's unique identity and give justifiable cause to believe the tide has turned in Hartlepool's favour."

Barry Keel, the town's director of economic development, says an important element is the creation of a more diversified local economy so the town can better withstand fluctuations in the national economy.

The private sector has just completed 200,000 square feet of factory space which is being marketed nationally and the council is involved in talks with British Steel about a high-quality industrial development on the 500-acre former South Works steel site alongside the main A19 road on the edge of the town.

There are also hopes of attracting substantial white-collar jobs, possibly through government relocations, to the town.

"The future for Hartlepool is very positive if we can maximize the potential of a number of schemes that are coming off, of which the marina development is a major project," Keel says. "We are determined that it shall not be some 'yuppie' colony, but will integrate, be physically linked to the rest of the town, and of benefit to the whole area."

The local football team is doing a little better, too.



On the road: Imperial Tankers managing director John Robinson at ICI Billingham

Buy-out that found its own road to success

The giant of Teesside, ICI, in the spirit of rationalization in 1987, examined its various limbs and tested them for efficiency. One that gave the clear signals of high costs and under-utilization was the road tanker fleet that carried products, some of them potentially hazardous, up and down the country (Ronald Faux writes).

The department was put to private tender, to the distress of those working there. The move led to the company's biggest management buy-out, which has prospered and is about to complete its first year's trading.

Imperial Tankers took over the fleet of 38 vehicles and 60-strong workforce and, with a guaranteed level of work from ICI, began to market its ability to deliver hazardous cargoes.

John Robinson, managing director and former department head, says: "The decision by ICI was strategic. Maintaining a transport fleet was more costly than buying a service from specialist tanker operators, and the company was reluctant to invest scarce capital resources in what was not a core activity. ICI makes chemicals; transporting them could be left to someone else."

The writing, he says, was on the wall. With two senior management colleagues acting as operations director and commercial director, business plans were laid and negotiations begun. By mid-1988, Imperial Tankers was the preferred option.

From the public relations point of view, the management buy-out was attractive because it kept the company team together as a going concern and openly encouraged enterprise at a time when there was not an overwhelming desire among

managements to buy out their own companies. "There was a lot of argument with the trade unions, but when that was through it seemed a more attractive option to the staff than working for a new boss. We were offering terms that were not as good as ICI - it would have been commercial suicide to continue at that level in the chemical haulage business - but we gave people who were in at the start the opportunity to buy shares in the venture."

In fact, 40 per cent of the ordinary shares in Imperial Tankers were allocated to be sold to employees, and there was an enthusiastic take-up. Ninety per cent of those in at the start are now shareholders in the venture, a fact which Mr Robinson says has transformed industrial relations.

"Things were a little tense at first because the transformation from company-owned to own account was quite dramatic."

The company has done well in its first year, but there is some trepidation about the next step because of big capital investment at a time of high interest rates. How much the company paid for its assets, and the value of its contracts with ICI, are not disclosed, but Mr Robinson admits that additional capital spending of £800,000 was necessary in the first year, and that new vehicles, tankers and a computer system will require several millions.

That is a difficulty shared by all developing polytechnics: a growing pain that the Government, in its search for rapid expansion in higher education, may find irksome.

The new board of governors has demonstrated a high level of business realism under the chairmanship of Richard Lines, head of MTM, a company which is developing a £50 million production and technology process centre at Teesside, on the site of the former Shell refinery.

Not unexpectedly, Mr Lines' view is that Teesside Poly should build on its strengths in producing first-class graduates in science and technology, particularly in engineering and computing. He says: "The danger in taking the easy road and simply producing hundreds more arts graduates and drifting away from, say, chemistry and engineering is that markets will change and it will be extremely difficult to go back and try to rebuild the polytechnic's culture and technical expertise." As the outside business world becomes more specific, so should the polytechnic as it plans its growth. The strategy should be to increase student numbers to 8,000 - a "critical mass" without which it could not achieve the grand schemes on which an international reputation could be built.

Teesside needs linguistically and technically sound students with a pan-European perspective, Lines says, because in 10 years the single European market will be a reality.

The recent launch of the Teesside Initiative in Higher Education will add a new dynamic through a partnership between the polytechnic and Durham University. Joint ventures, initially in the areas of health studies and educational studies, are to develop, and the hybrid organization (the names "polyversity" or "unitechnic" have been suggested) could provide an important third force in higher education in the region.

For the present, polytechnic authorities expect they will be unable to accept everyone who wants to join a course this year. Without a vast increase in funding, it will be impossible to give places to all who seek them and are suitably

qualified. "This will allow us to be more selective, even though the Government says it wants to double the number of students within 10 years," one member of the Teesside staff says. "The point is that unless the block grant system is changed there will be a problem - you do not get the extra finance until the year after you get the extra students."

That is a difficulty shared by all developing polytechnics: a growing pain that the Government, in its search for rapid expansion in higher education, may find irksome.

Farewell to the falling tonnages

With major clients, Teesport is now consolidating its place among UK ports, Ronald Faux writes

Growth in the volume of cargo handled at Tees and Hartlepool has reflected the buoyant state of Teesside. Gone are the grim days when the port - now the third largest in Britain in tonnage terms - recorded heavy losses: the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority ranks among the most profitable ports in the UK.

In 1988, when a 29 million profit was made, tonnages increased by 3.5 million tonnes to 37 million tonnes. Although that result was £1 million less than the 1987 record, the results were said by the port authority chairman, Mr J. H. Peart, to be more than satisfactory, exceeding the forecast for the year by £1.5 million.

The trend of continuing success and confidence was reinforced by the port's major customers in the oil, chemical and steel-making industries. Holding increases in charges below inflation helped strengthen the port's competitive edge and retain the loyalty of local industrial giants such as ICI, Phillips Petroleum and BASF.

At British Steel's export terminal at Tees Dock, the million-tonne barrier was breached for the second successive year, while the Nissan car facilities linked to the company's manufacturing plant at Washington continued to expand. Long before that plant was established, the Japanese company began shipping its vehicles through the port, and the relationship between Teesside and Nissan has led to a £2 million purpose-built terminal.

Using Britain as a springboard to Europe, Nissan is expected vastly to increase the volume of its exports through the Tees, demonstrating the attractions of the deep-water estuary to other industry. Cars and timber were im-

portant to the excellent year enjoyed by Hartlepool docks. Swift and direct links to the rail and motorway system, and the fact that most major ports in Europe and Scandinavia are within 24 hours' sailing time, are expected to be key points in the growth of trade with the European Community. The roll-on/roll-off berth is able to handle four lanes of traffic simultaneously, and current services include the twice-weekly Ferry Masters service to Sweden and a weekly Palangia service to Poland.

The authority is investing £30 million over a three-year period on Tees Dock, and has already completed a second roll-on/roll-off terminal. Plans to extend the Tees Container terminal were announced recently in a joint operation with the container shipping operator Bell Lines. This will double both the size of the existing quay at the Teesport terminal and the current capacity, to 100,000 units a year.

The authority is doing everything possible to broaden its operational base by developing a strong property portfolio on some of the vast and under-used land holdings.

Among the schemes to emerge are the Tees base for self-offshore industry, a partnership with the Teesside Development Corporation in which supply base, rig repair and conversion facilities and hi-tech fabrication plant are all concentrated on the former site of the Smith's dock shipbuilding yard. A major development is the completion of a sub-sea research and development centre.

Other plans are advanced for a commercial, retail and housing scheme at the disused Middlesbrough Dock and for a yacht marina in the Hartlepool south docks.



Middleport: A Customs and Excise officer looks at a part for the alleged Iraqi "supergun" due to have been shipped from Teesport for the Baghdad regime

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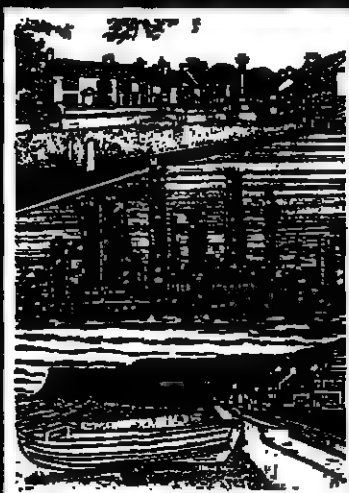
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Teesside's well-established industries are still very important – in fact the area has one of the largest petro-chemical complexes in the world and many of the North Sea's oil platforms are built in its yards – but newer industries are also finding the skills and capabilities they need on Teesside. Backed by the education and training resources of Teesside Polytechnic and seven further education colleges, a plentiful supply of graduates, technicians, management-trained and craft-based people is readily available.

Teesside's rapidly-broadening economy now includes electronics, food processing, clothing manufacture, plastics, furniture, distribution and business services, in addition to well-established engineering and fabrication operations.

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TEES/SIDE

Initiative Talent Ability

EDUCATION

Russian is no longer a compulsory subject in East European schools and colleges. David Tytler and Rupert Morris report

The new language for freedom

When the Berlin wall came tumbling down, the East Germans decided they wanted to learn English, not the compulsory Russian of the past 40 years. When Hungary broke free from the Soviet Union, the people there decided that they, too, would drop compulsory Russian and, again, the favourite language is English.

Compulsory Russian was abandoned in Hungary last September. Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia have followed suit. Only Yugoslavia, with its experienced tourist industry, can provide enough English speakers to keep the system working.

The problem facing all of those given freedom from Moscow is that there are too few English teachers to meet demands. The repression of the past 40 years, under which people have learned from books or the BBC World Service, means that spoken English is often rusty and stilted.

In East Germany, Russian will lose its compulsory status this autumn; 10-year-olds will have a choice, including English and French. In reality, there will be no choice, either there or in most of the newly freed countries, there are not enough teachers who can speak either language properly.

Dr Dieter Müller, a lecturer in political science at a teacher training college in Potsdam, recently visited London as the newly elected chairman of the DDR-GB (East Germany-Great Britain) Friendship Society. His aim is to persuade English teachers to visit East Germany. Cheap return flights of £99 are being provided to West Berlin, from where Dr Müller says, "it is now easy to move into East Germany."

In the beginning, the exchange scheme will be one-way from

Britain to East Germany because, until the two Germanies have a unified currency, the visitors from the East will have no money to spend, a problem that at least for a time will affect the whole of eastern Europe.

Dr Müller's message was clear and delivered in perfectly good English: "Our teachers have learnt English and about England from the textbooks. They need to improve it and to see the sights they have taught their children about."

"The best way for this to happen is for teachers to meet each other in their families to hear the language as it is spoken. We think that when parents are allowed to choose which language their children learn, about 75 per cent will go for English, 5 per cent for French and 20 per cent for Russian. All we want is to help our teachers to improve their English so that we can give the best to our children."

In Hungary, where there is a growing demand for the Oxford English Dictionary, phrasebooks and do-it-yourself language courses, the sudden advent of democracy and the nation's clear determination to join the European Community as soon as possible will lead to a growing shortage of teachers, particularly of English.

Juliana Szendrei, a researcher at Budapest's National Pedagogy Institute, said: "We need more English teachers. Maybe we will get more next year when there will be extra places at university level."

Dr Roger Bowers, controller of English at the British Council in London, estimates that for every teacher of English the Hungarian now have, they will need five by the year 2000. The British Council organized a symposium in Budapest



British training helped Elzbieta Lyszkowska to improve her English to teach at a British Council-run college in Poznan, Poland

'They want it to be an option, not just in every secondary school but in every primary school'

four or five-year training programme.

As for the teachers in the East, the crucial development in both East Germany and Hungary — with implications for the beleaguered teachers in England — has been the decision to abolish compulsory Russian lessons. For many, this was the most loathsome, most visible evidence of a Soviet domination they never ceased to resent. If you go to any east European country and ask the way in Russian, you may find yourself deliberately misdirected.

The second language of Hungary has traditionally been German, a legacy of the Austro-

Hungarian empire. But today, the Ministry of Culture will confirm that German has been overtaken by English.

Already, there are four state secondary schools where 14-year-olds learn nothing but English for a year, and go on to study other subjects in English. But Edith Nagy of the National Pedagogy Institute says: "English is taught in every one of our secondary and grammar schools, but not in all the vocational schools."

"At primary level, I should think that not more than 200 of 3,500 schools teach English. But this will change now that Russian is no longer compulsory."

The urgent demand throughout eastern Europe will be for English teachers, to teach the language to children, and to retrain Russian teachers who have suddenly been made virtually redundant.

English teachers wanting to help should contact the British Council or Voluntary Service Overseas. Freelance teachers working for businesses may be able to do

better. Zsuzsa Kerekes, 26, has no official teaching qualification, but after studying commerce at college and spending a year in the United States, found herself in demand as an English teacher with Hungary's Department of Commerce. She said: "I have traders, bankers and top electrical engineers among my students. If they can pass an English test, they will earn more money."

Erzsébet Mihalek, 25, is one of her pupils and works in the ticket office of Malev, the state airline. Although it was a requirement of her job that she speak some English, she is learning more at her own expense "just because I want to speak it better."

She admits that there is another incentive: if she can pass at a higher level, Malev will increase her pay.

Once the currency is convertible there will be many opportunities in eastern Europe for western business executives. And teaching English is a skill that will be in demand for a long time.

NOTEBOOK

Write-in on class sizes

THERE will hardly be a parent in the land who will not welcome a new write-in campaign to limit class sizes in primary schools in England and Wales, which often creep above 30. The Campaign for the Advancement of State Education (Case) reports that in West Germany there is a limit of 30; if it goes up by even one pupil the class is split into classes of 15 and 16. In France the limit is 25.

The average size in England was 25.4 in 1988 — the latest figures available — but this figure hides some unacceptably large classes.

Writing in the Case magazine, one of the campaign leaders, Mrs Jackie Matharu of Ilford, Essex, points out: "Most parents believe that some individual attention is beneficial to their children's education. Private schools often sell themselves on having small classes."

Popular polys

ENTRIES to degree courses at polytechnics and colleges continued to rise this year. By March they had received 171,284 applications, divided pretty equally between men and women, compared with 151,376 last year. There were 8,739 applications from overseas students.

For the first time the Polytechnics Central Admission System also published a breakdown of the ethnic origins of applicants who live permanently in the United Kingdom.

White	131,452
Black Caribbean	2,441
Black African	2,072
Other Black	653
Indian	7,146
Pakistani	3,434
Bangladeshi	501
Chinese	1,365
Other Asian	1,512
Other	2,097
No response	9,872

Russian visitor

GENNADY YAGODIN, the Soviet Minister for Education, who has forced through many wide-ranging reforms, begins a week-long visit to Britain today to see how schools are faring here. He



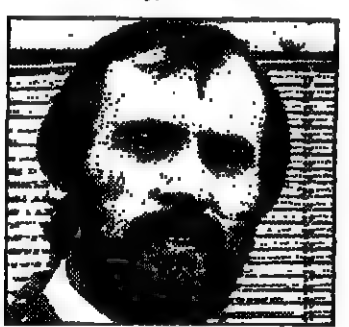
Yagodin: to meet MacGregor

was invited following the visit in 1988 to Moscow, Siberia, and Leningrad by Kenneth Baker, the then Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Mr Yagodin is not overly popular with Soviet teachers as he has introduced a number of changes both to their terms of service and the curriculum. It will be the first time he has met John MacGregor, who replaced Mr Baker last July.

Overseas study

THE embattled prison service received one piece of good news this week with the announcement that John May, the Governor of



May: Harkness fellowship

Dartmoor — which recently experienced a riot in the wake of Strangeways — has been awarded one of 12 Harkness Fellowships.

From August the fellows will spend six to nine months in various American universities to work on special projects in their own fields. Mr May, aged 42 and married with two children, will investigate how various methods of rehabilitation can aid crime prevention.

Teaching tour

A SMALL unit is beavering away in the Department of Education and Science to encourage more people to enter teaching. In the third "roadshow" since the summer of 1988, when it was set up, the Teaching as a Career Unit attracted 3,300 inquiries. More than half of them aged between 24 and 40.

An average of 410 people attended the exhibitions in Salford, Huddersfield, Stoke on Trent, Chelmsford and Bristol. An additional 1,250 inquiries were received through the post.

David Tytler
Education Editor

School lessons can be a family affair

Recent education reforms give more power to parents as governors, but there is still a debate about how welcome they are in the classroom, particularly in primary schools, where parents are encouraged to help their children (David Tytler writes).

While many primary schools now encourage parents to take an active part in their child's education, from reading to computers, and cooking to football, others still place restrictions even on where parents can meet their children (David Tytler writes).

The mood is gradually changing, but a handful of schools still keeps the gates shut until just before school starting time. An appointment system for parents to see either heads or the classroom teacher can also be used in such a way as to limit parental access while pretending to guarantee it.

Richard Stainton, a former primary head in inner London and now in charge of the primary department of the National Union of Teachers, Britain's biggest teachers' union, believes more personal involvement should be encouraged.

He says many schools still have restrictions on parents entering the building, although few still have the notices of not so many years ago warning *No Parents Beyond This Point*.

When Mr Stainton became a head six years ago, he introduced an open-door policy for parents. But he conceded that it was not without its problems. "If you have a completely open-door policy, as I did for two years, you have to give other things a miss, but if parents have anxieties you have to give them time and attention," he says. "There were a few occasions when it was abused, usually by parents — having believed what their children had told them — was true — going straight to teachers."

It always seemed to happen at the busiest times and it was only a few who were rude and abusive, who denied the rights of the majority."

John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is a strong believer in parental involvement in classrooms as an adjunct to the greater power given to them on governing bodies which are now responsible with their headteachers for the day-to-day running of schools.

He says: "I have been encouraged by how much more receptive schools and teachers have become to parents. They increasingly join in with school activities, especially in primary schools."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, believes that limits have to be placed on parental involvement. "We cannot sanction anything which amounts to taking over from the teachers, but there must be a role for parents in our schools," he says. "They have

Some teachers ban parents from classes, others use their skills to help the children

skills that should be welcomed. "We cannot just switch on the tap of parental involvement when it suits us and switch it off when it does not. We have to be consistent."

Mr Stainton believes that allowing parents complete freedom in a school could be difficult. It is not only teachers who may find parental presence "distressing" on occasion. Against the current belief that teachers have lost their status in the eyes of both parents and children, Mr Stainton says that many parents treat non-teaching staff in a way in which they would never treat teachers. At one of his schools, a dinner lady was attacked.

The head of a 200-pupil primary school in outer London is clear that parents should be allowed into the school only in controlled circumstances: to play an active part in fund-raising and to help the younger children to read. The head or a teacher is always there to supervise.

Like many heads, however, she is genuinely concerned about what

they meet at the school gate.

It is quite common at many schools for "contact" books to be sent home every evening containing a diary of what the child has done. Parents can sign it and add messages for the teacher, who in turn can reply.

Not all are happy with the idea of written communication alone: it is not user-friendly, being too formal and demanding a basic level of literacy. "We were most successful when we invited parents into the school," Mr Stainton says.

His school embarked on a reading programme for the younger children, inviting all parents into the school at least once a week. Many were free during the day, perhaps because of unemployment. There was a good attendance in some classes where about half the parents attended regularly; in others only two or three parents turned up.

Mr Stainton, however, remains a great believer in parental involvement and in using it to benefit everybody connected with the school. He says: "I think there should be a greater link between what parents know and what children learn. They could do so much more to help each other."

He envisages a system whereby it would be possible to help parents improve their own skills, which can run in tandem with the development of their children.

The unwillingness of some parents to take up schools' invitations to help their children learn to read may occasionally be because they cannot read themselves, but Mr Stainton believes it is more often that they lack the confidence to enter a school.

He organized a reading session for parents and their children every week in the first three classes of the school. Some classes had as much as a 50 per cent attendance every week, others just attracted two or three parents, but it did work.

"It made a clear statement that parents were welcome and they brought their babies and younger children. It certainly improved the children's reading skills," Mr Stainton says. "It was not our only method but it was important."

He is particularly proud of his achievements with the school's computer programme. Parents have helped to raise money towards the installation of a computer in every classroom but only one teacher knew how to use them. In a joint programme with the local adult education institute, a group of parents was trained on the computer system. Then they returned to the school with their instructor to teach the children.

Mr Stainton has one major regret about parental involvement in his school: "Not being able to benefit the parents as much as the children. I just wish we could have done more for the parents."



On the playing fields of Beechen Cliff school: who will be the eventual winners?

Today Beechen Cliff School in Bath will open as a grant-maintained school, running its own affairs completely separately from the local authority, which until now has decided school policy.

Tomorrow Avon County Council will return to the High Court to ask, for the second time, for the reversal of the decision to allow the 800-boy comprehensive school on the hill above the city to opt out of local authority control (our Education Editor writes).

In February, the High Court instructed John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, to reconsider his decision to allow the school to opt out of local authority control because he had failed to consider the needs of other children in the area.

Avon, which wanted to turn Beechen Cliff, the school of the four-minute mile Sir Roger Bannister, into a sixth-form college, will ask the High Court to instruct Mr MacGregor to think again.

The final decision on Beechen Cliff will be crucial for two of the Government's most fundamental reforms as they come head-on with each other in the revolution now changing the way in which schools in England and Wales are run.

It is clear that some officials at the Department of Education and Science believe that more schools will choose to opt out of local authority control rather than make do with the limited freedom offered by the local management of schools (LMS) — the reform intended to give day-to-day running of schools to heads and governors.

More schools may well choose grant-maintained status to gain control of all their funds rather than lose the substantial sums that authorities will hold back for central services under LMS. It also seems probable that the initial taste of limited freedom under LMS will only encourage heads and governors to go the full way and opt out. There is no question that, even given the small numbers, grant-maintained schools are enjoying their new freedom.

Mr MacGregor is a keen supporter of opting out, despite the embarrassment caused by the wrangle over Beechen Cliff.

Critics of the plan say that

Confusion continues on opt-outs

Boys await a High Court decision

parents use the opt-out route as a way to prevent the closure or merger of their children's schools. The Government says that 11 opt-out proposals turned down were for schools due to be closed or reorganized. Other schools have voted against opting out in the parents' ballot, even if the school were facing closure.

So it may be that where the local authority argues the case cogently, parents will not automatically vote against them.

There are also some teething problems in the new schools, which, having to find their own way, are, after all, in uncharted waters. Governors at one school are having an inordinate number of governors' meetings because they seem to believe they are responsible for every detail of school management, from ordering the oil to hiring a cleaner.

Another school is at the other extreme. The governors meet irregularly and the headmaster is allowed a completely free hand. Neither can be right. The middle way has yet to be found for both these schools.

Mr MacGregor has no doubts that the benefits outweigh the problems. He says: "Schools have told us of the benefits of increased speed and efficiency in making staff appointments. Schools can advertise when they want to, rather than being boxed into local education authority arrangements. Heads say they can get things done quickly without having to wait for approval from county hall."

Robert Lloyd, head of Hendon School, north London, one of the first to opt out, says there have already been marked improvements in the school. There has been a 58 per cent increase in spending on books and other

teaching materials and a 25 per cent rise in music tuition.

Mr Lloyd says this is only the beginning. "Directing resources towards longer-term commitments, particularly additional staff and improvements to facilities will enhance the work of teachers and the working environment significantly," he adds.

It is this improvement of a teacher's life in all the grant-maintained schools, where staff find they have extra money to spend on their departments, that has won over many who were initially opposed to opting out.

The first 18 opt-out schools opened last September. Another two have since opened and approval has been given to 15 more, while ballots of parents at a further 18 schools have shown a majority in favour of opting out.

Mr MacGregor remains true to the revolution.

He says: "I am convinced that the dedication and enthusiasm of the first grant-maintained schools are showing the way effectively in developing new approaches and maximizing the commitment and enthusiasm of governors, parents and teachers."

There may also be changes in the regulations, allowing even more schools to opt out.

At present, only primary schools with more than 300 pupils can apply and, so far, no primary school has sought grant-maintained status.

The message from the Government is that if smaller primary schools wanted to opt out, the request would be favourably considered by ministers.

The size of the revolution will become apparent within the next two years. Meanwhile, the boys and parents at Beechen Cliff are again going through confusion.

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EDUCATION WHICH LEADS TO SUCCESS

The Times reports on the tenth running of the London Marathon and on the problems it poses Britain's national selectors

Hutton out on his own in the race to a European place

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

IF LONDON was under a cloud as the world's biggest marathon got under way from Greenwich yesterday, think how the British selectors must have felt soon after the finish. At least they found a silver lining.

It was a good job Allister Hutton was there, otherwise the British selectors would have had to wait uncomfortably long for one of their cavalry. With Hutton's victory went guaranteed selection, as the first Briton, for the European championship in Split this summer; there are two more places in the men's team to fill at the discretion of the selectors, but nobody else's performance, in what was designated the official trial, was worthy of consideration.

It was for a case such as this that the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) decided six months ago to abandon its policy of reserving places for the first two athletes in trial races and replace it with one guaranteed place. Mindful of the omission of Steve Cram from England's Commonwealth Games team, the idea was to prevent proven athletes from being kept out by those with a lesser claim, but who had finished second in their trial.

"Wouldn't we have had a problem if we had had first two past the post?" Les Jones, the British team manager and

a selector for Split, said after yesterday's race. He and his panel met yesterday afternoon with a view to naming their three men and three women for Split, and they are due to announce the names tomorrow.

Hutton apart, the good British marathon runners who did not drop out before the race did so during it, or were swallowed up by the numbers. Carl Thackeray, the second favourite, confirmed on Saturday his withdrawal through injury, joining Paul Davies-Hale, Britain's winner of the Chicago Marathon, on the sidelines.

Hugh Jones and Mike Grattan, former London winners, and Kevin Forster, twice second, suffered various fates, which left John Boyes as the second Briton home in 32nd place.

The gap between Hutton and his first compatriot was an astonishing six minutes. Not only that, no one other than Hutton managed to beat the BAAB guideline time — hardly forbidding at 2hr 15min — set for European championship selection.

It is to be hoped that no hurried decisions have been taken. Steve Jones, a former holder of the world's fastest time, has made himself unavailable. Charlie Spedding, third and sixth in the last two Olympics, is injured, and Davies-Hale has said that he is

more interested in trying to make it to Split as a track runner.

The best of the options would be to wait to see whether Thackeray recovers in time to show what he is capable of in either the Paris Marathon or the Stockholm Marathon in the next six weeks, and try to encourage Davies-Hale to change his mind. Should both those fail, Geoff Smith, who recorded 2hr 13min 38sec to finish seventh in Boston last Monday, might be considered.

Smith, shifting slightly from his comments a week ago, said yesterday that he would make no decision until the selectors had made theirs. Immediately after Boston, he said he was interested in selection, but that, as a full-time athlete, "the European championship does not pay the mortgage."

Yesterday, he said: "I shall come to a decision when the question arises. Let them pick me, then I will decide."

Phil O'Brien, who ran 2hr 14min 21sec in Boston, might also have a claim, though the BAAB usually has little sympathy for those who ignore its trial to run elsewhere. That leaves Geoff Wightman, who made his international championship debut in the Commonwealth Games, and was the second Briton, behind Steve Jones, to finish, despite several stops caused by a calf injury.



Splendid solitude: A lone wheelchair competitor, cheered on by the crowds, passes over Tower Bridge yesterday

Ericsson edges in to wheelchair win

By Michael Coleman

WET slippery going made wheelchair grip difficult but four broke two hours in the wheelchair race, which saw a strong foreign entry swamp the field. The first Briton, Chris Hallam, secured his third title, was pushed back to sixth place.

On Westminster Bridge, the Swede, Hakan Ericsson, and Wolfgang Petersen, of West Germany, seemed to be playing cat and mouse for a special finish. But after exchanging words, Petersen apparently waved the Swede on to first place in recognition of the pace-setting Ericsson had taken on himself throughout the race.

Ericsson, aged 21, from Lund,

had been expecting a tough battle with David Holding, the Briton who snatched victory on the line last year. But a few days before the race, Holding was admitted to Guy's Hospital "for some surgery", according to Doa Taylor, the race secretary.

In Holding's absence, four broke away, Ericsson and Petersen being joined by the French wheelers, Jean-François Poitevin and Farid Amarouch who, in the Boston Marathon last Monday, had recorded the superior times of 1hr 33min and 1hr 35min respectively.

Such recent expenditure of energy eventually told as Ericsson applied the pressure to emerge as winner of the ADT/BSAD (British Sports

Association for the Disabled) London Marathon.

Hallam was satisfied with his sixth place in such international company, although Cousie Hansen, of Denmark, nearly caught him as she took first place in the women's race.

Tim Christie won the mini-marathon in 12min 45sec while Ann Wild was first in the girls' race, and third overall, in 13min 10sec.

RESULTS (GB unless stated): 1, H

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**GAIN A FEW
SECONDS
ON THE OPPOSITE
PAGE.**

**SPEND A FEW
SECONDS
ON THIS ONE.**



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A club in harmony with its supporters finds discord and frustration in a format foreign to the relentless pursuit of excellence

Rangers win a war of attrition

By Roddy Forsyth

Dundee United 1-0
Rangers 1-1

DESIRE was manifest in the streets around Tannadice on Saturday. Those Rangers supporters who possessed tickets strode purposefully towards their destination, the turn, red brick stadium where the Scottish League championship could at last be resolved in the span of a single fixture.

The benefit and tarty among the Ibrox following: impromptu and pleaded with strangers, policemen, and even Dundee United supporters, in the fractional hope of securing the flimsy slips of paper which would permit them access to a climactic moment.

The ticketless will always be with us, but on Saturday they were present in sufficient numbers to alarm the Rangers security officer, Alastair Hood, whose perpetual expression of fraught concern was not relieved by the additional fear that a favourable result for the defending champions might trigger a pitch invasion at the final whistle, or even less agreeably, while the match was still in progress.

In the event, those who could not gain access mitigated their pangs by loitering outside, trying to synchronize their emotions with the action on the pitch, while at full-time some of the more juvenile elements did indeed spill over the boundary walls, only to be ejected back to the terracing, where their colleagues were capering raucously.

And these are the supporters who are supposed to have become blasé about their club's habit of appropriating the championship under Graeme Souness.

It is safe to say that they are not about to become wowed by the celebration of honours. Whether they are so antagonized by the process of acquiring titles is another matter, and this season has, quite properly, intensified the debate about the effectiveness of the present arrangements for Scottish football.

If Saturday's match, - entwined by a single moment of genuine class - was predictably dull, it conveniently offered a metaphor for the Scottish game in general.

There is an undercurrent of frustration among spectators

about the relentless format of the premier division. To put it crudely, in most fixtures the visiting team adopts a defensive mentality, and it is the duty of the home side to wear down the opposition, usually by a process of attrition.

For the top clubs, and most evidently Rangers, the business of battering at gates is extended to virtually every excursion.

Two weeks ago Aberdeen, the most able team outside Ibrox, employed a spoiling strategy for Rangers' visit to Pittodrie, and the game was consequently destroyed as a spectacle.

At Tannadice, Dundee United played five, and sometimes six, across the back, and the contest would have been a tiresome bore if a crown had not hung in the balance. Last week, Graeme Souness expressed frustration at the tactics similarly employed by Motherwell on their visit to Ibrox, but he must realize perfectly well that there is no obligation on weaker sides to make life easier for better equipped opponents.

The difficulty is that the standard of physical fitness in the premier division has never been greater, but it exists alongside a cyclical shortage of creative native talents. So it is that most teams have taken to importing players from overseas, Scotland to remedy the deficiency, and it was entirely apt that the goal which secured the title at Tannadice should have been scored by Trevor Steven, at £1.7 million the champions' most expensive purchase, from England.

His vital header was the product of a mastery blind-side run through the congestion of the home defence, a talent which is likely to be at a premium in the World Cup finals. It was also gratifying to note that the goal was made possible by a player who cost Rangers a mere £15,000, from Alloa Athletic, before Souness arrived. Stuart Munro pushed out from defence, won a throw-in, took it himself, and accepted a return ball in fashion to cross which Steven converted.

Rangers might have captured their fourth League title earlier in the season if they had not lost the appetite for graft when they were seven points ahead of the pack. To paraphrase Bob Dylan, they were asked to sing while they slaved, but they got bored.



The glorious game: Ritchie, the Rangers captain, conducts the celebrations at Tannadice on Saturday

New signers will be brought in this summer to keep the choir alert. As Maurice Johnston said in just afterwards: "They're going to sign some more people this summer. Maybe I'll be up for sale."

Not likely, one is bound to say; a prediction reinforced by the sight of Johnston, a Glaswegian Roman Catholic and former Celtic forward, almost submerged in a scum of adulatory Rangers supporters at full-time. The championship is perhaps not the greatest of Rangers' achievements this season.

DUDEE UNITED: A. Miller, A. O'Neil, S. Munro, M. Johnston, D. Johnston, H. French, M. Pennington, W. Davidson, A. Brown, P. Harris, S. Munro, R. Gordon, M. Spence, T. Butler, T. Steven, D. Ferguson (sub: J. Brown, A. Mitchell, M. Wilson, M. Wilson). Referee: K. Baird.

Determined Dundee bow to the inevitable

By Roddy Forsyth

RANGERS' championship aside, the other critical issue in the premier division was also settled on Saturday, when Dundee's long-anticipated demolition was settled by a combination of factors.

At least they cannot be said to have gone gently; their belated struggle to survive was extended admirably at Celtic Park, where they came within five minutes of inflicting an unprecedented fourth consecutive league defeat on Celtic.

Dundee took the lead when Morris, who conceded a penalty against Hibernian in midweek, was again culpable, this time illegally stopping Wright. Dods took the resultant kick and beat

Bonner with ease. Celtic's difficulties were increased by an injury to Ellison, whose departure left them a man short, but they equalized in the 85th minute when Cranney forced Rogan's header over the line.

At Tynecastle, Heart of Midlothian gained a measure of revenge for their dismissal from the Scottish Cup by Aberdeen when they beat the Pittodrie side 1-0, Mackay scoring with a low shot 15 minutes from the end. It moved Hearts up to second place, two points ahead of Aberdeen.

Hibernian did their chances of a place in the UEFA Cup no good by losing at Motherwell to a goal from Arnott, scored midway through the first half.

Injury forces Nicol to pull out of squad

STEVE Nicol, of Liverpool, will miss Scotland's World Cup warm-up match against East Germany at Hampden Park on Wednesday night (a Special Correspondent writes).

Nicol, who was left out of the match against Argentina last month as a result of his failure to attend a public relations trip to Genoa, has been struggling to overcome a groin strain, and although he scored two goals in Liverpool's 4-1 victory over Chelsea on Saturday, a reaction to his injury has enforced his withdrawal.

Also doubtful is Fleck, of Norwich City. He has a knee injury which, according to the Scotland coach, Andy Roxburgh, gives him little chance of being fit.

City show off but Exeter stutter

PLAYING for pride before their largest crowd for a League match this season, Leyton Orient took on Bristol City, the leaders of the third division, on Saturday and gave them a run for their money.

The resulting 1-1 draw did no more than slow City's progress towards the second division and there was no doubt about which team was capable of the better football, but Frank Clark, the manager of Orient, did not dwell on that.

"This gives me a lot of optimism about the future. In the past couple of months we have played the top eight here and have not looked second best to any of them," he said.

"Bristol City showed their strength, their class if you like, from the fifth to the seventh minute. For that period we struggled to cope but apart from that we did well."

City started the match briskly, forcing two corners in the opening minute but for the next half an hour they seemed content to show off. Newman, Shilton, Gavin and Smith all had their moments without threatening to score.

Orient, meanwhile, did what they could and the running of Hull and Harvey promised better things to come. Sure enough, in the 32nd minute, they took the lead, Howard scoring with a simple shot after Harvey's routine cross had been allowed to run across the City penalty area.

By then, both teams were fortunate to be playing with 11 men. Hales, of Orient, and Llewellyn, of City, had both been fortunate to escape with bookings for apparently deliberate fouls.

Orient might have extended their lead either side of half-time, Harvey shooting wide after being put clear and Howard bringing a fine save from Sinclair after a howler by Humphries.

But, as Clark recognized, City's technical superiority began to tell, and had they not been without Taylor, their injured centre forward, they would surely have equalized before they did. Taylor's

Keith Blackmore reviews the third and fourth divisions

replacement, Ferguson, on loan from Heart of Midlothian, looked able without suggesting that he was in any way too good for the third division.

Newman, the City captain, on the other hand, certainly did look too good for the third and it was he who scored the equalizer, thumping in Gavin's free-kick from the left in the 62nd minute.

Rennie might have given City the lead four minutes later but his low shot was turned round a post by Head, diving to his left. Thereafter, the match regained its earlier character, with City having the look of champions and Orient most of the play.

But a draw was a fair result and, as it turned out, it did no harm to either side. Both teams below City, Bristol Rovers and Tranmere Rovers drew their matches and only Notts County to fourth place, made up ground on the leaders, by beating Cardiff City 2-1. The point also carried Orient beyond all but mathematical danger of relegation.

A win against Gillingham on Saturday would have carried Exeter City out of the fourth division but they had to settle for a draw. Other weekend results left the promotion picture no clearer than before, with 10 teams still capable of promotion by one means or another.

The outstanding result in the division was achieved by Hartlepool, who recovered from the drop, but their 4-1 defeat at the hands of Torquay United leaves them eight points adrift at the bottom of the League.

LEYTON ORIENT: P. Hales, J. Shilton, T. Newman, S. Shilton, K. Blackmore, S. Black, J. Howard, K. Nugent, L. Harvey, A. Hall (sub: G. Campbell, G. Carter).

BRISTOL CITY: R. Sinclair, A. Llewellyn, J. Newman, G. Hampton, D. Taylor, M. Gavin, R. Newman, N. Morris, D. Smith, I. Ferguson (sub: R. Turner). Referee: G. Singh.

Portadown riding high

PORTADOWN can make certain of their first Irish League title by beating Linfield next Saturday at Shamrock Park (George Ace writes).

The mid-Ulster team, who have led the championship table since November, won at Castlebragh Park for the first time in eight seasons, beating Ards 1-0, with the goal coming in the second minute of injury time.

Sandy Fraser, one of four Scottish imports, crashed home a close-range shot following a corner to send Portadown's supporters home in a state of high glee.

Glennavon's final championship match is away to Coleraine and the Lurgan blues will be hoping for a little help from Linfield, the Belfast blues.

Before meeting Portadown they play Glenavon in the final of the Cawoods County Antrim Shield at the Oval on Wednesday night, and they warmed up by leaving the trauma of losing Ray Coyle, their manager, behind to beat Bangor 3-0.

Exhaustion all in the mind for Royle's marathon men

Louise Taylor reviews the second division

MARATHON runners may talk of willing spirits being inhibited by weak flesh, but Joe Royle insists his Oldham Athletic players are suffering from the opposite problem.

Saturday's 3-0 win at home to West Ham United was Oldham's 59th competitive victory of the season, yet the manager argued: "Too much is made of the physical thing. The only problem is mental."

West Ham are far from an unfit team, but in the second half Oldham out-pace, out-tackled and out-witted a side which had won nine of their previous 14 matches. As Royle said: "We are fit, but with so many games, it is hard for the players to keep their concentration. We are mentally tired, and because of that, they are starting matches feeling flat rather than being boosted by adrenalin."

"What tends to happen is that we start games slowly, not getting going when we find ourselves under pressure. Against West Ham, we were standing still in the first half, but finished running faster and further than them."

With West Ham clearly anxious to avoid a repetition of

their 6-0 Littlewoods Cup humiliation at Boundary Park in February, the first half tended towards the tentative, and was surprisingly fairly incident free. Nevertheless, Oldham should have won a penalty when a left-wing cross from the excellent Holden was handled by Dicks inside the penalty area.

Perhaps keen to make amends, he awarded Oldham a spot kick after Rodhears had appeared to dive in the face of a challenge from Mikosko early in the second half. Rodhears promptly sent the goalkeeper the wrong way for the opening goal, his 27th of the season, and the adrenalin suddenly started coursing through Oldham.

Against Oldham, Rodhears could do nothing wrong, and if the penalty had been a slice of luck, there was nothing fortunate about Oldham's second goal, in the 55th minute. Barlow's low cross from the left skirted across the face of goal, before being met by Irwin, the

over-lapping right back, who centred for Rynn. Sprinting into the middle, he scored from six yards.

Rynn, who is not certain of his place in Royle's line-up to meet Nottingham Forest in the Littlewoods Cup final, claimed his second and Oldham's third five minutes from time, exchanging passes with Milligan before leaving Milligan with no chance courtesy of a fine finish from the edge of the area.

Between the goals, Oldham spurned a catalogue of chances, which left West Ham - at the evening's end - the odd much-perfect pass from Brady apart - looking pedestrian.

Despite Saturday's defeat, West Ham, who are seventh, are a mere two points behind Sunderland, occupants of the fourth and final play-off position, who conceded a two-goal lead at home to Portsmouth, the visitors equalising with the final kick of the match.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC: A. Rodhears, D. Irwin, A. Barlow, N. Henry, E. Brown, P. Harris, N. Padellaro, A. Rodhears, P. Brown, M. Milligan, R. Holden.

WEST HAM UNITED: L. Mikosko, S. Slater, J. Dicks, G. Parry, C. Foster, A. Gale, L. Brady, M. Allen, J. Cullen, K. Keen, T. Morris (sub: T. Morris). Referee: K. Baird.

Wilkinson makes his excuses

By Walter Gammie

Brighton 2-0
Leeds United 2-2

AN IRONY of the charmless way Leeds have pursued their first division has been the persuasive and willingness to swap arguments of their manager, Howard Wilkinson. At the Goldstone Ground on Saturday, you were ready to believe the failure of his team to win and to entertain with the style appropriate to a chart-topping act, was bound up in the structure of the Football League.

Wilkinson opposes the play-offs - "if you win a race, you win a place if the Football League want three to go up, the first three go up." He urged reference to Rothmans to find days of yore when there was two-up, two-down promotion and relegation to support claims that sides were once able to play matches unburdened by the unbalancing weight of artificially-prolonged expectations.

Not since December, Wilkinson said, had Leeds played "a game of football". Add that plaintive cry to a hard pitch, a strong wind and a Brighton side that kept their heads in adversity, and Leeds laboured to stay ahead of the pack.

After a 17-minute delay to the kick-off (15 minutes at the behest of the police and two to recover Day, the Leeds goalkeeper, when he became seasick in a goalnet), Leeds controlled the first half. Speed scored an early goal when Brighton, notoriously vulnerable at set-pieces, were undone by a long throw-in by Jones.

Leeds failed to clear a Brighton throw-in to allow Bremner to set up Gotsmanov, the on-loan Soviet international, for a smartly-taken equalizer in the 61st minute.

Strachan, a treat to watch, responded positively and created a superb opening that saw him round Dwyer, the Brighton goalkeeper, but leave the ball short when opting to square it across goal - a surprise as he had weighed his passes with the precision of a bowler delivering perfect wickets. Chapman, the teenage Brighton left back, had time to clear but his first touch clumsily sent the ball into his own goal.

Brighton, profiting from the frequency with which Leeds gave away possession, matched the point that may save their second division place three minutes from time when Crumplin headed in Wilkinson's corner.

BRIGHTON: P. Dwyer, G. Chivers, J. Chapman, A. Cunniff, J. Crumplin, K. Doherty, S. Gotsmanov, J. Robinson, K. Brown, R. Carter, D. Wilson.

LEEDS UNITED: M. Day, M. Shearer, J. Bagg, V. Jones, C. Pardoe, J. McIsaac, G. Bremner, C. Harris (sub: D. Barry), J. Chapman, J. Varnd (sub: G. Smith), G. Speed, R. Bradley. Referee: K. Coppie.

Newcastle miss the points

By a Special Correspondent

Plymouth Argyle 1-0
Newcastle United 1-1

PROFLIGATE Newcastle may yet have cause to regret the chances they let drift away in the welcoming first-half sun at Home Park on Saturday. The opportunity of snaffing two more points, and leaving their nearest rivals, Sheffield United, out of the second division's second guaranteed promotion place, went begging, not to mention the prospect of equalising a club record of 25 years' standing of seven successive League victories.

Plymouth Argyle gave Newcastle almost galling respect, allowing the talented Kristensen and Ashton to run the game, and Brock to expose, relentlessly, a weakness on their right flank.

Newcastle consequently dominated in every area, save where it mattered most. Quinn looked sluggish, although he was shared 60 goals this season, who was the more culpable.

True, he helped himself to Newcastle's deserved 25th-minute equalizer, heading Brock's cross past Wilmut from eight yards, but not until he had shared two other equally inviting chances.

That Plymouth had taken an eleventh-minute lead, Tynan cleverly escaping his marker to

head a Flore free kick beyond Burridge's dive, was also a travesty. At least they improved significantly in the second half, even to the extent of having merited the point which may prove invaluable as they labour to retain second division status.

Plymouth hustled Newcastle out of their stride, competed on equal terms in midfield, particularly following the withdrawal of the anonymous Thomas, and finished, if anything, the stronger.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: R. Wilmut, K. Brown, M. Flore, M. Barker, A. Burrows, K. Hodgson, D. Byrne, G. McCann, T. Tynan, A. Thomas (sub: D. Sullivan), A. King.

NEWCASTLE UNITED: J. Burridge, R. Scott, M. Simpson, R. Ashton, J. Anderson, D. Brock, M. Brock, K. Dicks, M. Quinn, A. McShea, S. Kristensen. Referee: T. Ward.

They instead equalized when McNally's cross found Goodman, whose header gave Dwyer, the goalkeeper, no chance.

The arrival of Simpson as a seventeenth minute substitute tipped the scales. Simpson's wing brought much-needed pep to a stale forward line and released the otherwise anonymous Shearer on the run, which presented White with the simplest of winners.

SWINDON TOWN: F. Dwyer, D. Hodgson, P. Brock, M. McCann, G. O'Sullivan, D. Givens, T. Jones, D. Shearer, S. White, R. McIlwain, S. Foley (sub: P. Shearer).

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: G. Brock, G. Hodgson, S. Harris, G. Shearer (sub: J. Shearer), A. Foster, D. Givens, A. Foster, S. McNally, D. Bradley. Referee: J. Ashworth.

Swindon flatter but fail to impress

By Peter Robinson

Swindon Town 1-0
West Bromwich Albion 1-1

A YEAR ago, Swindon Town's arrival in the first division would have been greeted by many with a groan. Their long-ball game, introduced by Watford and refined by Wimbledon, had lost its novelty.

Twelve months later, Swindon's welcome would be much warmer. The direct route has long since had the division signs put up around it and the Whitehouse club, if they care, a place in the play-offs and claim a promotion spot, would win friends among football's elite.

That, however, on the evidence of this sloppy victory over a struggling West Bromwich Albion, is a big "if". Swindon have struck an inconsistent patch just when they need to be running into form as, inexplicably, the one-touch, two-touches introduced by Owen Ardill, their manager, has begun to misfire.

They were second-best throughout a goalless first half, and rode their luck in the second, not least when Bodin, the left back, opened their account when a free kick from 25 yards took two deflections to beat Naylor, the goalkeeper, two minutes after the restart.

West Brom could have simply cursed their luck and folded, but

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(This does not apply to sale periods or discounted prices).

Outdoor leisure superstore

Adventurers have been attracted from as far afield as Worcester and Dover since Olympus Outdoor World opened its doors last year.

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Chris Bonington, the world famous mountaineer, has lectured at the store and the exciting "Taming of the Lion" canoeing expedition, to the as yet unconquered River Indus in Pakistan, kitted themselves out at Olympus Outdoor World.

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Impromptu solo steals the show

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

ALLISTER Hutton was walking through the corridors of County Hall shortly after the finish of the ADT London Marathon yesterday when the Spaniard who was third introduced himself. After spending much of the race on his own, it was time for Hutton, the impresario, to meet the orchestra.

Half an hour earlier Hutton had become more than just the first Scot to win the London Marathon; he was the first Briton for five years to show the way home and, at 35, the oldest winner by far; above all, he was the most unexpected.

Hutton was the third solo runner for victory in London, though neither Hugh Jones, who did the same in 1982, and Toshiko Seko, who followed in 1986, could claim quite the degree of audacity of this year's winner. At the end of the corridor, in the interview room, Hutton shared a stage for the first time since the fifteenth mile when his last companion, Bill Reimsnyder, could not take any more.

A word at five miles to Nick Rose, the pacemaker, to pick it up proved the decisive factor; only Reimsnyder, from the United States, went with the British pair; by the time Rose and Reimsnyder had had enough, Hutton was 90 seconds ahead of Salvatore Bettiol, of Italy, and two Americans, Don Janicki and Paul Pilkington.

McCracken's success has Budd-type disquiet

By David Powell

BRITISH athletics faces another South African controversy after Nicola McCracken showed a massive improvement on her best marathon time yesterday to secure what she assumed would be automatic selection for the European championships in Split this summer.

Although McCracken was born in Britain and holds a British passport, she lived in South Africa until four years ago and said after finishing the ADT London Marathon that she had taken part there "in local races - fun runs". However, International Amateur Athletic Federation rules bar athletes who have competed in South Africa from international competition.

The delight on McCracken's face at her five-minute improvement to 2hr 33min 07sec was replaced by a frown when she was questioned over her South African appearances. She said: "I was only jogging. Does that ban me for life?"

Budd's so-called participation in a race in South Africa - she claimed she was on the course but not taking part - led to the controversy which

By the finish on Westminster Bridge, Bettiol had reduced the gap to 30 seconds without ever appearing likely to catch Hutton. The Edinburgh laboratory technician's time was not exceptional for a London Marathon winner - 2hr 10min 10sec - but it did not need to be. It was good enough for a £34,570 pay-day or, in international marathon currency language, \$56,695.

In the week leading up to the marathon, there were enough press conferences and parties to have heard every expert's view on who was going to win. Nobody predicted Hutton. The most telling observation came from his coach, Alan Storey, after the race. "I had no idea he was going to run that way today," Storey said.

Storey, the former national marathon coach, was in the lead vehicle and, from his privileged position, he declared, even before 10 miles had been reached: "This was not a preconceived plan." It just happened that way, with no one who had a chance of winning, not even the fastest man in marathon history, Bekele Densimo, of Ethiopia, prepared to respond.

"There is absolutely nothing he has done in recent races that would have given you any indication that he was going to be a minute and a half in front at 18 miles," Storey added.

Hutton had trained hard but, with the Edinburgh weather caring little for producing a London Marathon winner, not ideally. "He has trained on

the track only twice," Storey said. "It's like baking a cake - you put in all the ingredients, stick it in the oven and, when you open the door, you hope it's going to be okay."

All the best cakes have icing and for Hutton it was European championship selection. Britain want him, even if Scotland did not. He was omitted from their team for the Commonwealth Games because he preferred to do the 10,000 metres rather than the marathon.

Although Hutton and his pacemakers were clear by half-way, the pace should not have dissuaded others from going with them. They reached 10 kilometres in 30min 28sec and 10 miles in 48:49, both splits 2hr 08min 30sec pace. The half just after Tower Bridge was taken in 64:18 and 20 miles at 2:09:30 pace, at 1:38:38.

Meanwhile Densimo, who holds the world's fastest time of 2:06:50, had dropped out, pulling up after 14 miles complaining of the cold and ankle and hamstring injuries. What happened to the man, we wondered, who had said on Thursday that he never gets injured?

Bettiol, too, was suffering a foot ailment but resisted the challenge of Juan Romero, of Spain. Bettiol was second in 2:10:40 and the Spaniard third in a national record of 2:10:48. Another Spaniard, Jose Montell, was fourth in 2:11:04 and Mike O'Reilly, fifth in 2:11:05. The first of a disappointing Soviet group was Yakov Tolstikov, who was sixth in 2:11:07.

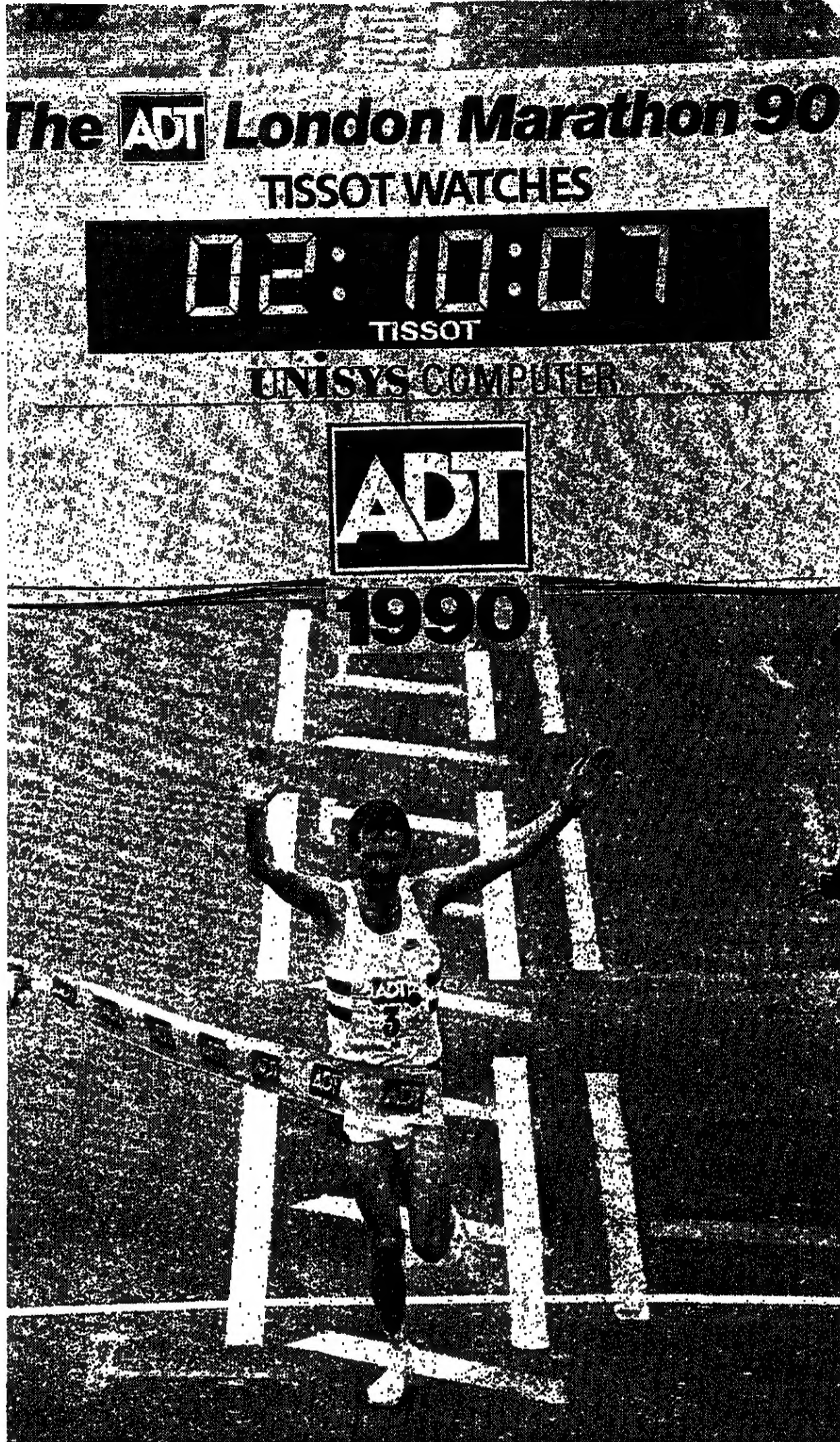
The women's race was won by the Pole, Wanda Panfil, who went one better than last year. She recorded 2:26:31 to finish clear of a United States pair in second and third: Francie Larrieu-Smith (2:28:01) and Lisa Weidenbach (2:28:15).

Zhao Youfeng, the Chinese who was expected to offer a challenge, hardly did so, finishing fourth in 2:29:35. The British challenge hardly took off with Nicola McCracken the best of them in fifteenth place. The favourite had been Weidenbach, the former swimmer who gave up that sport when the United States boycotted the 1980 Olympics.

Full marathon coverage, page 46
Leading article, page 13

Quiroga's title

Robert Quiroga, of Texas, won the International Boxing Federation world super-flyweight title from Juan Polo Perez, of Colombia, on a unanimous points decision at Sunderland's Crowtree Leisure Centre on Saturday. The South American was making his first defence since he took the crown from Ely Pical, of Indonesia.



Hutton's hour: The oldest, and most unexpected, winner of a London Marathon crosses the line at Westminster

Bull gets chance to stake a claim

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

STEVE Bull, one of those on the fringe of England's World Cup squad, is expected to be given an opportunity against Czechoslovakia at Wembley on Wednesday to confirm his right to a place. The Wolverhampton Wanderers centre forward looks likely to benefit from the gaps which have appeared among the first choices in attack.

Both wingers are unavailable. Waddle, required by Middlesbrough for a potentially decisive French League fixture the same evening, been released from international duty, and Barry Bannan, injured at Anfield on Sunday, has withdrawn with a bruised calf.

Beardsley, though he joined the party, is unlikely to be selected.

The mystery surrounding his fitness has been unveiled. Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool manager, was reluctant to explain on Saturday why Beardsley had been omitted. But Bobby Robson, the England manager, said yesterday: "He has been suffering from a knee injury which required three weeks to clear up."

As on Saturday, Beardsley will probably be chosen as a substitute, and will be used only if necessary. Since Bannan has dropped out, the other representative in the squad who could naturally fill a central role against Czechoslovakia is Bull, who soon certain to collect his second full cap.

A natural goalscorer, he made his mark on his debut against Scotland a year ago when he replaced Fashanu in the second half. Since then he has come on for Beardsley against Denmark last June and appeared in the starting line-up for the first time against Yugoslavia in December.

Robson, who has relied heavily on Lineker as England's most productive weapon, has looked at nine other contenders since the World Cup finals four years ago. Kerry Dixon, Cottie, Allen, Hateley, Regis, Harford, Smith, Clough and Fashanu have come and, almost immediately, all of them have gone.

Bull, though he has yet to be convincing, remains the most logical alternative in spite of his technical deficiencies. He and Gascoigne, therefore, will share the centre of attention at Wembley since the other likely changes, with one exception, involve those who either are or have been established internationals.

Hodge and Steven, who occupied the flanks in Mexico, will probably do so again as the respective understudies for Barnes and Waddle. Bryan Robson is thought to be fit enough to resume as the leader of a comparatively inexperienced side.

Lee Dixon, for example, will be making his debut as the replacement for Stevens, the regular right back, who returned for Rangers at the weekend. "He expressed a desire to join us," Bobby Robson said, "and I don't want to dampen that enthusiasm." Yet he is unlikely to risk him.

Nor, initially, will he gamble on Wright, who is receiving treatment for a calf strain. "I need to look at him, though, at some stage," Robson added. The implication is that Walker, involved in the Littlewoods Cup final with Nottingham Forest next Sunday, will be rested after the interval.

Subritzky signs
SWINTON have signed the flanker, Peter Subritzky, from their Rugby League second division rivals, Huddersfield, for £10,000.

Move to Harlequins is just the job for Moore

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

BRIAN Moore, England's hooker, confirmed over the weekend his intention of leaving Nottingham to join Harlequins next season. Moore, a solicitor, said the move coincided with a new job opportunity in London.

He has spent all his senior career with Nottingham, with whom he won under-23 and B cups before playing his first senior match against Scotland in 1987. Now aged 28, Moore's move coincides with the removal of John Oliver, Harlequins captain for the last three years, to the Midlands where he intends to join Northampton.

Moore was England's pack leader this season and has now won 23 caps. His presence in Harlequins' ranks would bring

the number of internationals in their side to five - six if one includes Andy Mullins, who made his senior debut against Fiji in the autumn.

One of those five, Mick Skinner, is doubtful for England's visit to Rovigo where they play an Italian President's XV on May 1. Skinner, an ever-present at flanker this season for England, may have difficulty getting the necessary time off work for the four-day trip.

Lithuania's bid
TOKYO (AFP) - Lithuania has applied to enter the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) as an independent state. The application will be discussed at the ITTF general assembly here in September.

Chen finally given all-clear to make international debut

By Richard Eaton

CHEN Xinhua won the vote at the national council meeting of the English Table Tennis Association on Saturday to play for this country. He will definitely be picked for the team for the World Team Cup in Japan from May 17-23, which starts two days after the former World Cup winner from China becomes available, according to the existing International Federation two year eligibility rule.

Chen, who now has a home and a family near Huddersfield, succeeded by 23 votes to 14 to be considered for selection for England without a British passport - and captain Donald Parker has made it clear that selection will take place immediately.

This is absolutely vital. If by injury or accident, or any other reason, Chen misses his projected debut in Japan, then that could abort the rebirth of his international career. That is because the week before last, the European Union changed its eligibility rule from two years to six for European league and European championships, and the International Federation is said to be considering something similar for its major events at its meeting in Casablanca in July. If it is, then Chen will only remain eligible if he has already played for England by then.

There may be further repercussions. The chairman of the ETTA, John Preen, is considering resignation after losing the argument against Chen's inclusion, which he pursued so vigorously till the end. Apparently, he does not feel he can now represent the association internationally after this vote and will reconsider his position.

Preen even managed to obtain a communication from the Chinese association saying it did not want Chen to play for England. There was another, of much more relevance, from the President of the European Union, Mihovili Kapetanovic, asking all European associations to keep solidarity with the change to a six-year eligibility rule until the International Federation's next meeting.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Positive drug test

BERNE (Reuters) - Uwe Krupp, of West Germany, has returned a positive drug test at the world ice hockey championship, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) announced yesterday. Any disciplinary measures depend on whether a second test also proves positive, the result of which is due today.

If the second test is positive, Krupp would face an 18-month ban from international ice hockey.

Perfect Puzar

Schwabenstadt, Austria (AFP) - Alessandro Puzar, of Italy, riding a Suzuki, raced to victory in both heats of the 250cc world motocross championship. He collected 40 points for the two wins.

Dutch choice

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Ajax manager, Leo Beenhakker, has been named the Netherlands national coach for the World Cup following the confirmation of the dismissal of Thijs Libregts.

Bontempi wins

Martina Franca, Italy (Reuters) - Guido Bontempi, of Italy, won his second Tour of Apulia cycle race in four years yesterday.

Magee better

San Jose, California (Reuters) - Kevin Magee, the Australian motorcycle racer, has come out of a coma just days after he suffered a critical brain injury in a crash in the US International Grand Prix. His condition was said to be "serious but stable".

Derry's loss

Derry City, who made a clean sweep of the three major League of Ireland football trophies last season, surrendered the last of them, the FAI Cup, at the semi-final stage yesterday when they lost to Bray Wanderers 2-1 at the Carlsberg grounds. Wanderers' opponents in the final at Lansdowne Road on May 13 will be St Francis, a junior side, who were 500-1 outsiders when the first round draw was made.

Final teams

Wanderers, the Leinster senior league rugby union champions, will meet Monkestown in the final of the senior cup at Lansdowne Road next Saturday. Yesterday they defeated Lansdowne 18-14 while Monkestown got the better of St Mary's College 11-6 on Saturday.

Loosemore's quantum leap

From Barry Wood, Singapore

SARAH Loosemore stood at the final hurdle at the DHL Singapore Open yesterday, but failed to clear it and was defeated in three sets by Naoko Sawamatsu, of Japan.

Nevertheless, Loosemore's was a promising performance against an opponent who, except for her poor spell in the second set, played exceptionally well, reflecting her rise in the world rankings this month from 254 to 116.

Without a strong serve or a decent volley, the 17-year-old is able to win by keeping her errors in the rallies to a minimum. She is quick, varies the pace of the ball, and is athletic enough to change direction and return a ball that has landed behind her.

Consequently, Loosemore need not feel dismayed at her

defeat, for she achieved the quantum leap that players of other nations seem to make, but which always seems to elude the British. Ranked 298 at the end of last year, she will now be in the top 100.

The outcome of the final, which finished 7-6, 4-6, 6-3, could not be anticipated until the last few minutes. Loosemore twice took the lead in the first set, for 4-3 and then 6-5, but Sawamatsu was able to break in the next game on each occasion.

After winning the tie-break, Sawamatsu took a 4-1 lead in the second, but the match took a dramatic turn at dusk in the next game. An unnecessary over-rule denied Sawamatsu advantage. Loosemore won the game, and then also took

the next five.

However, she could not maintain that momentum, and a double-fault gave her opponent a priceless 4-3 lead. Her fifth double-fault in the final game merely helped Sawamatsu on her way to victory.

In fact, after impressing with her serve throughout the week, and indeed during much of the final, it was inconsistent enough yesterday to be a problem. She was faulted six times at one end of the court, and one suspects she was given the benefit of the doubt at the other.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: S Loosemore (GB) vs S Sawamatsu (Jpn), 6-7, 6-2, 6-3; H Sawamatsu (Jpn) vs M Fitzgerald (Ire), 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. Final: Sawamatsu vs Loosemore, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3. Doubles final: C Davis (GB) and J Fitzgerald (Ire) vs P Partridge and C Sturt (GB), 6-4, 6-1.

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